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ABSTRACT

This second edition of the chronicle provides an accurate and balanced representation of the history of the Black experience in an effort to counteract misinformation presented in most U.S. history textbooks. A study of U.S. history texts used in Wisconsin school districts reveals major failings. One of the most serious shortcomings of the textbooks is the omission or distortion of the Black experience as well as inaccuracies in the portrayal of Black people. The historical account of events, which the chronicle presents, begins in 50,000 B.C. and ends in 1979. The following major historical periods are covered: early times; the colonial period; slave resistance; the Revolutionary War period to the Civil War; the Civil War; Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction; Black organizational activities from Civil War to 1900; the populist movement; the Booker T. Washington Period; the Harlem Renaissance; the New Deal and World War II; the post-World War II period; the posttest era; the struggle of the 1960's; the decade of the seventies; July, 1978 Justice Thurgood Marshall's Bakke dissent; and 1979. For each period an historical overview is provided, specific dates within the historical period are listed, and events occuring on those dates are described. Examples include: 1890, by the beginning of the 1890's, there were 154 Black newspapers; 1942, James Farmer formed the Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.); 1978, New Orleans got its first Black Mayor, Ernest N. Morial, on Mondary May 1, 1978. (Author/RM)

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BLACK CHRONICLE
An American History Textbook Supplement

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About the Author

Born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1914, Clarence Kailin began studying Black history as the result of his early interest in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1930's. He started teaching Black History in the early 1960's, holding classes in his home and, later, presenting the first public Black history course in Madison at the YWCA. Mr. Kailin has given series of courses in Madison for Edgewood College, the Free University, West High School Interim Session, PTA groups, churches and neighborhood centers. Through the University of Wisconsin Extension he worked with the Center for Community Leadership Development, teaching classes in a number of Wisconsin cities. In 1967, his dissatisfaction with the portrayal of Blacks in high school history texts led him to organize the "Committee to Teach Black History in Madison Schools," a project which culminated in the writing of *Black Chronicle.*

Preface to the First Edition

A study of many American history texts used in Wisconsin school districts reveals some major failings. One of the most serious shortcomings of textbooks consists in the omission or distortion of the Black experience as well as inaccuracies in the portrayal of Black people.

Much of our history has been written to satisfy the needs and desires of a segregated, white-oriented society. Until recently, many American history texts ignored the very existence of Black people except as delightfully happy and contented slaves—passive, docile and imitative: a concept based on the racist myth that Africans and their descendents are biologically inferior.

The term "race" is part of the Black inferiority myth. About the time of the American Revolution, the Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, and others used "race" as a convenient term to describe physical differences in people. Subdividing people in this manner suited the slaveholder's ideology. The slaveholders not only created the concept of biologically different races, but they attempted to prove the superiority of the white race. This kind of "race," says anthropologist Ashley Montagu, defines conditions which do not in fact exist.

The racist speaks of color prejudice as something inborn, an instinctive part of human nature. This concept has been used both as rationale for belief in white supremacy and as an excuse to dominate Black people. The same people who had been forced into slavery were then characterized by the racist as being instinctively submissive.

A more recent racist concept speaks of socially induced inferiority in which Black people have been so unable to resist the destructive effects of ghetto life that they have become permanently crippled and can no longer function as useful citizens. Some people have even alleged that Black people have a basic personality weakness which is supposed to have made them the world's most natural slaves. Emancipation was said to be unnatural for Black people, leading to frustration, rage, insanity and suicide.

Afro-Americans have been considered as no more than wards of white folks who claimed that the Negro people had no history of their own and, therefore, no culture. Gunnar Myrdal described Black culture as a "distorted development, or a pathologic condition" of American culture in general, while Glazer and Moynihan maintained that the Negro "has no values and culture to guard and protect."

The turn of this century saw many prominent writers on Reconstruction. One of these historians, James Ford Rhodes, referred to the freedmen as "one of the most inferior races of mankind . . . a race of children." Columbia scholar, John W. Burgess, stated, "A black skin means membership in a race of men which has never of itself succeeded in subjecting passion to reason, has never, therefore, created any civilization of any kind." Another Columbia historian, William A. Dunning, said, "The Negro had no pride of race and no aspirations save to be like the whites."

These are but a few of the writers and a few of the myths that until the late 1960's made up white American historiography. This racist outlook makes it impossible to gain an undistorted view of American life and history.

Black people, however, have always been aware of the myth of white supremacy, and Black historians in particular have seen the need for a truthful history. Men like Carter G. Woodson, Charles Wesley, W. E. B. Du Bois and

scores of other historians—Black and white—have dedicated their lives to this work.

In spite of historians' efforts, it was not until the late 1960's that Black militant forces, both in the ghettoes and in the universities, forced open the doors of learning and forced whites to recognize the illegitimacy of white, racist, historical concepts. Out of these struggles came demands for Black Study Departments and for integrated texts.

As Black studies became popular a large mass of hastily published, poorly edited, so-called integrated books came on the market. The inclusion of Black history usually meant mere name-dropping and the old stereotypes remained. A few books attempt a neutral position showing both sides of the story, but neutralism in history is nothing more than a promotion of the status quo, and that is racism.

In the interest of excellence in education it is the duty of the historian to overcome racist trends in textbooks. Central to this study is the origin of racism as a product, not only of chattel slavery, but of the peonage-segregation system beginning after the reconstruction period. The Supreme Court's shameful decision of 1896, *Plessy vs. Ferguson,* in denying the injustice of Jim Crow, gave in to the demands of racism and allowed the law to impose social behavior. The growing violence and racism of succeeding years still afflict us and constitute the major problem of our time. This is the white problem we must deal with, not simply as an individual matter to be solved by being a "good person," but by viewing racism as an American institution.

The injustices of racism have not, of course, been confined to Black people in America. Other minorities, particularly the Native American, have also fared badly in their relationship to white America and in the way they have been depicted in books and other information media.

The work of Christian missionaries in this country has included covert and insidious attempts to take possession of the Indian soul and carve out little empires among the "fearsome heathens." During the 19th century, the "manifest destiny" movement culminated in the armed invasion and defeat of numerous tribes. Invasion became a veritable policy of genocide with survivors being forced onto reservations. Invasions of Indian land were followed by the combined intrusion of federal agencies, industrialists, researchers, anthropologists, do-gooders and tourists.

Women, too, have been relegated to an inferior position in American life and history writing. The role of women in our society, especially Black women, has been one of second-class citizenship. Except in a token way, women do not exist as corporation heads, army generals, executives, politicians, bankers, book publishers or in other traditional areas of power and influence.

The oppression of women began in the distant past, yet anthropological studies show that in an early stage of human history, men and women lived in a condition of complete equality. It was when men acquired the tools of production that they also acquired the power of economic and political control, together with the ideology of male supremacy. Similarly, it was the economic power white men gained through the slave system that gave them political and legal control and the ideological power of white supremacy and racism.

Much of our history writing has been oriented around the concept of the "great, white man." Thus, our history writing has often become not only elitist and racist, but male chauvinistic. A history that ignores or distorts the lives of a majority of the people cannot be either truthful or democratic. The following

chronicle should be considered only as a guide. A more complete study should be made, and for this purpose a bibliography has been included which lists books by category and historical period. Additional booklistings will be furnished on request.

Clarence Kailin

Preface to the Second Edition

Although many changes have taken place since this publication was conceived, the fundamental ideas which inspired the original pamphlet remain.

Major demographic changes, the result of mechanization and industrialization, have forced Black people out of rural areas, a great many to be transplanted in the big city ghettos.

Although legal restraints against Black people have been removed, the institutionalized patterns of hundreds of years of segregation and racism remain. Political representation, equal opportunity in housing, education and health care are yet to be realized. But the key problem is economic: unemployment, underemployment and a widening income gap, while the corporate power of Black businesses is miniscule. Without a solution to these problems, segregation and racism will continue, and human rights will remain an elusive dream.

Ghetto schools (surrounded by richer, white suburbs) have suffered under financial handicaps, and this in turn has had a detrimental effect on educational standards, while Black students in predominately white schools frequently find themselves isolated. They find textbooks and teaching methods often not relevant to their lives—too many teachers still think of them as uneducable and thus take a negative attitude toward teaching Black students—a major factor in the higher-than-normal drop-out rate.

The 1970's saw a renewal of "scientific" racism by Dr. Arthur Jenson and others, whose works claimed that "genetic factors are strongly implicated" in IQ differences between Black and white people. Jensen warned of the dangers of "dysgenic trends"—a rehashing of old "race" theories—now known to be without foundation, but which constituted justification for so many segregationist practices which still continue, even though the forms may have changed.

In many parts of the country there has been a cutting back and in some cases a closing of Human Relations as well as Afro-American Studies departments. Affirmative Action programs, designed to end the traditional inequality in hiring practices, are being challenged under the guise of "reverse discrimination."

The struggle of Afro-American People—an inspiring history—continues. It has a very special and unique character which has affected in a decisive way all aspects of our lives. It has always been a force for positive and democratic change. If we ignore or falsify this history we only help to sustain racism. Thus the struggle to achieve excellence in education goes hand-in-hand with the fight against all forms of institutionalized racism.

Clarence Kailin

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Early Times

50,000 B.C. The appearance of Homo sapiens in Africa marked the origin of the entire human race. Dispersal (and later reuniting) of people over the face of the earth led to a variety of physical types. Biologically different races do not exist; only the human race remains.

6,000 B.C. Egypt became an organized nation predating European history and culture by thousands of years. The source of Egypt's people and culture (the mythical Land of Punt) is present day Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia.

2980 B.C. During Egypt's Third Dynasty lived Imhotep, the multigenius architect, astronomer, poet, magician, philosopher and the real father of medicine. He designed the earliest stone building after which the pyramids were modeled. His best known saying was: "Eat, drink and be merry for tommorow we shall die" (J. A. Rogers, *World's Great Men of Color,* pp. 38-42).

1700 B.C. The first civilization of Europe was established on the Island of Crete. The ancestors of Crete were Africans.

600 B.C. The Iron Age began in Egypt. The Greek historian, Herodotus, stated that iron tools were used in building the Great Pyramid.

Much of ancient Greek mythology had its origin in Egypt. The Greeks referred to Ethiopia as the "land of burnt faces." Herodotus believed that the origin of the myth of Hercules was Egyptian. The Black Athenian poet, Euripides, referred to Ulysses "of sable hue, short wooly curls . . ." The gods and goddesses of Greece were considered Ethiopian: Jupiter, Bacchus, Apollo, Ammon, Venus, Isis, Diana, etc. The great men of Greece journeyed to Egypt for study: Thales, Anaximander, Pythagoras, Solon and Herodotus. Greek scholars who studied at Alexandria were Euclid, Archimedes, Eratosthenes, Hipparchus and Ptolemy (Lerone Bennett, *Before the Mayflower,* p. 5).

Some famous African figures: noted general, Hannibal; writer of fables, Aesop, sixth century slave of the Greeks; famous dramatist, Terence, Roman slave; Emperor of Rome (193-211 a.d.), Septimus Severus; Christian historian, Saint Augustine (J. A. Rogers, *World's Great Men of Color).*

9th to 13th Centuries. The first real civilization to reach Europe during the Middle Ages came from Moorish Spain. By the time of Columbus, Spain had become Christian and the Age of Enlightenment ended.

13th Century. West African civilization was at its peak. The university and commercial cities of the Songhay Empire on the Niger River were already legendary in Europe. Great kingdoms existed throughout Africa as far south as Zimbabwe (Basil Davidson, *Africa in History*).

15th Century. Invasions from the north, the Atlantic slave trade, and finally, the colonial partition of Africa led to her decline.

1440's. A Papal Bull allowed Christians to enslave any non-Christians. The rationale for slavery was religious. Color played no part in this early decision. In Spain and Portugal, the baptized slave took on the status of the free servant. (Lerone Bennett, "White Servitude in America," *Ebony*, November, 1969, pp. 31-40 and Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*, pp. 3-29.)

End of the 15th Century

Descendents of free Africans were among the first settlers of the New World. They came with Columbus, Cortes, Balboa and Pizarro.

Were Europeans the first to explore the Americas? Columbus in his log told of Black traders from Guinea. Early historians told of African kings who sent ships across the Atlantic. Many cultural discoveries in South America are of African origin (John G. Jackson, *Introduction to African Civilization*, pp. 232-263 and Carter G. Woodson, *The Story of the Negro Retold*, p. 14).

The Colonial Period

The decline of Feudalism, the beginnings of capitalism, the need for raw materials and new markets—these were the forces behind the founding of colonies.

The European invaders first proceeded to rob the indigenous people, then enslave them. When enslavement failed, the invaders turned to genocide, forcing the survivors onto reservations.

European servitude came next. About 70 percent of the European population of the American colonies was, at one time or another, indentured under conditions of involuntary servitude closely resembling slavery. These were the poor, criminals, prisoners-of-war (Scots and Irish victims of Cromwell's campaigns), kidnapped children, religious dissidents and men dodging the European wars.

Later, labor shortages developed. Europe (Spain and Portugal by the 17th century and England in the 18th century) then turned to Africa for manpower, for Africa was accessible by ship. At this time there were no attitudes of white supremacy. The need for slavery was economic and the rationale was still religious (Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*).

1619. A year before the arrival of the *Mayflower*, a ship landed at Jamestown, Virginia, with 19 Black Africans. The first Black Africans who came to America worked as indentured servants and then were freed, the same as many Europeans. These Africans could then work for wages, own land, vote, own servants (Black or white) and intermarry. However, the Africans lacked protection from their own government, and it was found cheaper to enslave them for life than to set them free and pay them wages. Again, the need was primarily economic and the rationale was still religious (Lerone Bennett, *Before the Mayflower* and Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery)*.

During the hundreds of years of chattel slavery, African captives were obtained through warfare, trickery, banditry and kidnapping. Some fifteen million thus reached the Americas alive with an estimated three times that figure dying along the way. This forceable removal of most able-bodied young people was devastating to Africa.

1661. The first slave laws came into existence.

Slave Resistance

1661. In an early petition for freedom, Emanual Pieterson and Dorothy Angola, free Negroes, petitioned the Director-General and Lord Councillor of New Netherlands for the freedom of their adopted child. Petitioning became a widely used weapon in the freedom fight (Herbert Aptheker, ed., *A Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* Vol. 1. p. 1.)

1663. The first serious conspiracy involving Black slaves occurred in Virginia. White indentured servants conspired with the Africans. The plot was betrayed and the rebels were executed. This is but one of many hundreds of attempts at freedom (Herbert Aptheker, *American Negro Slave Revolts,* pp. 164-165). The need for ever greater profits and the constant threat of slave revolt brought harsher restrictions and systems of control. In time the South became an armed camp. Ideological control, too, became (and still is) a powerful weapon. To maintain injustice requires that it be rationalized. Shortly before the American Revolution a vast body of literature appeared—history, biology, religion, ethnology, sociology, "race": all designed to prove biological differences according to race and establish Black inferiority. As slavery became institutionalized, so did the ideology of white supremacy (Earl Conrad, *The Invention of the Negro).*

1660-1670. Slave codes were established. Children now followed the slave condition of their mother. Baptized slaves were no longer given freedom. Should a slave's death result from punishment, the master was not to be held responsible. Slaves could not meet, even for religious purposes, without the presence of a white. Prohibited were guns, clubs, horns and drums (these last two were ancient methods of communication). Slaves could not vote, ride horseback, testify in court or control their own children. Slave marriages were not recognized. Families could be separated at the will of the master. Slave resistance took many forms: refusing to work, working as slowly as possible, damaging tools, killing farm animals, self-inflicting injury, burning buildings, destroying crops, "misunderstanding" orders, running away, organizing escape (underground railroad), buying freedom and causing insurrection (Herbert Aptheker, *American Negro Slave Revolts).*

Maroons were groups of slaves who ran off to the swamps and forests and lived there for generations. They would make sporadic guerilla raids on the surrounding communities. Evidence of at least fifty communities have been found . . . Some two thousand such fugitives and their descendants were thought to have lived in the Dismal Swamp between Virginia and North Carolina. (Herbert Aptheker, *Journal of Negro History,* Vol. 24, pp. 167-184).

1750. The Boston *Gazette,* October 2, carried an ad asking for return of Crispus (Attucks), escaped slave.

1760's Advertisement in the Annapolis *Maryland Gazette,* August 20, 1771:

RAN away from a Plantation of the Subscriber's . . . the following Negroes, viz. Perez, 35 or 40 years of age . . . Jack, 30 years (or thereabouts) . . . Neptune, aged 25 or 30 . . . Cupid, 23 or 25 years old . . .

Whoever apprehends the said Negroes . . . Forty Shillings Reward . . .

(signed) George Washington

Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon) September 21, 1769:

RUN away from subscriber in Albemarle, a Mulatto slave called Sandy, about 35 years of age . . . Whoever conveys the said slave to me, in Albemarle, shall have 40s . . .

(signed) Thomas Jefferson

(The *Journal of Negro History,* Fall, 1978. pp. 373-374).

1770. On May 5, runaway slave, Crispus Attucks, led a group against the British soldiers in Boston: he was killed along with four others. Said Daniel Webster, "From that moment we may date the severance of the British Empire" (Lerone Bennett, *Before the Mayflower,* p. 55).

The Revolutionary War Period to the Civil War

Black people were desirous of freedom and independence and took it where they could. Black soldiers fought at Lexington, Concord, Ticonderoga and Bunker Hill; they were with the Green Mountain Boys. At least 5,000 fought in the Revolutionary Army, while thousands went over to the British, hoping for freedom. Another 100,000 "got freedom with their feet," escaping to Canada or Nova Scotia or running off with the Indians. Black soldiers also came from Haiti—the Fontages Legion—and fought at the Siege of Savannah (Benjamin Quarles, *The Negro in the American Revolution* and Lerone Bennett, *Before the Mayflower,* pp. 48-69).

1773. Phyllis Wheatley, the poet, was the first Black slave-woman and the second woman to publish a book. America's first Black author was Jupiter Hammon, 1760 (E. Franklin frazier, *The Negro in the United States,* p. 493).

1776. One of the first independent Black churches was the Harrison Street Baptist Church at Petersburg, Virginia.

1776. Through the efforts of Prince Hall, African Masonic Lodge No. 1 was organized on July 3. In 1791, Prince Hall was made "Provincial Grand Master of North America." Today there are over a half-million lodge members (John Hope Franklin, *From Slavery to Freedom,* p. 164).

1776. The Declaration of Independence was revolutionary to the extent that it demanded independence from British domination, but proslavery forces maintained the slave system. Not only did northern business and banking institutions become tied in with the slave system, but slavery became entrenched in highest government circles. Twelve of our first sixteen presidents owned slaves and a number of these had children by their slaves. The system of slavery intensified the oppression of all women. The degrading effects of oppression were noted by the wife of President James Madison, who spoke of the white wife as "the chief mistress in a house of prostitution" (Herbert Aptheker, *Political Affairs* Magazine, February, 1971, pp. 57-58.)

1787. Absolam Jones and Richard Allen organized the Philadelphia Free African Society. This mutual assistance society had insurance features and was the forerunner of today's Black insurance organizations. Allen was chiefly responsible for the founding of the African Methodist Church, which became independent in 1816 (Charles H. Wesley, *Richard Allen: Apostle of Freedom).*

1788. The Constitution of the United States was ratified. Neither American Indians nor slaves had civil or legal rights, but Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution allowed two-thirds of the slaves to be counted in determining representatives to Congress thus giving the South abnormally large representation.

1789. Oloudah Equiano, former slave, published his autobiography in England. He states: "When you make men slaves . . . you compel them to live with you in a state of war . . ." (Paul Edwards, ed., *Equiano's Travels,* p. 73).

1790. James Derham was the first Black physician in North America. He enjoyed a flourishing practice among the elite of New Orleans *(M. D. Medical News* Magazine, April, 1963, p. 202).

1791. The successful slave revolt on the French colony of Haiti had a direct and immediate effect of stimulating and supporting the French Revolution. Napoleon's attempt to crush the Haitian revolt failed. The loss of his manpower was so great that he could no longer maintain his hold on Louisiana, which he was forced to sell to the U. S. The revolt was also directly responsible for ending the British slave trade (C. L. R. James, *The Black Jacobins).*

1793. The Fugitive Slave Law was based on Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution, which states that a person held to service shall not be considered free by virtue of having fled into a free state.

1800. During Gabriel Prosser's slave uprising many thousands of Black people were betrayed. Stated one slave just before execution, "I have nothing more to offer than what General Washington would have to offer had he been taken by the British and put to trial by them" (Herbert Aptheker, *American Negro Slave Revolts,* p. 223).

1806. Benjamin Benneker died, October 6. Born November 9, 1731, he was called the first Black man of science. He was noted as a mathematician, clockmaker, surveyor, astronomer, poet, musician, abolitionist (Bedini, Silvio A., *The Life of Benjamin Banneker).*

1811. United States troops suppressed a slave uprising in two parishes some 35 miles from New Orleans. The revolt was led by Charles Deslands. Some 100 slaves were killed or executed *(The Negro Almanac,* p. 10).

1811. Black nationalist, Paul Cuffee, commanded a ship which sailed to Africa with 38 Black emigrants from America.

1816. The American Colonization Society was formed. Its purpose was the deportation of free Black people who were considered a menace to the slave system. The Society met with determined opposition from virtually all Black people (Carter G. Woodson and Charles H. Wesley, *The Negro in Our History,* pp. 281-293).

1820. The African Grove Theatre was formed in New York. James Hewlett and Ira Aldridge were the first of the great Black Shakespearean actors. Jim Crow customs drove Aldridge to England where he became famous (Langston Hughes and Milton Meltzer, *A Pictorial History of the Negro in America,* p. 74).

Ira Aldridge.
Theatre Collection, The New York Public Library at Lincoln Center, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

1822. Many thousands of Black people were involved in the Denmark Vesey Conspiracy of Charleston, South Carolina. The 37 who were hanged followed the conduct of Peter Poyas who stated, "Do not open your lips! Die silent as you shall see me do" (Herbert Aptheker, *American Negro Slave Revolts,* p. 272).

1827. *Freedom's Journal,* the first Black newspaper, made its appearance four years before Garrison's *Liberator.* Extracts of the first edition include the following: ". . . Too long have others spoken for us . . . we should not be unmindful of our brethren who are still in the iron fetters of bondage" (Herbert Aptheker, ed., *A Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* Vol. 1, p. 82).

1829. David Walker's *Appeal* was published. He asked slaves to throw off their chains. *(One Continued Cry: David Walker's Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World, 1829-1830).*

Both the Vesey Conspiracy and Walker's *Appeal* struck terror into the white South. South Carolina passed a law forbidding free Black seamen from leaving their vessels when in S. C. ports and in some states free Blacks were prevented by law from entertaining or visiting slaves because of their frequent cooperation in their uprisings (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker.* p. 9).

1831. The organizational work first begun in 1787 continued. For the single city of Philadelphia, an advertisment appeared in the *Gazette* in which were listed 16 male societies formed between 1795 and 1830, and 27 female societies formed between 1793 and 1830. These organizations collected monthly contributions from their members to be used in assisting the sick, unemployed, widows and orphans, and for burial services. (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* pp. 111-114.)

1831. The first Annual Negro Convention was held in Philadelphia (Philip S. Foner, ed., *The Voice of Black America.* pp. 56-60).

1831. Nat Turner's Rebellion. Turner had at one time run away from his master (as his father had done, never to return), but returned because he felt he had a divine mission to free the slaves. His rebellion began on August 21, with the aid of six other slaves. He was soon joined by more than 50 additional slaves. Fifty-five whites were killed and over 100 slaves and free Blacks were summarily shot or beheaded in retaliation. Trials were held later and many hung. Turner was later captured, and while in prison was questioned about his life and the rebellion. When asked if he did not find himself mistaken, he replied: "Was not Christ crucified?" (Herbert Aptheker, *Nat Turner's Slave Rebellion.* See also, *The Negro History Bulletin,* March and April, 1955, "The Family of Nat Turner, 1831 to 1954," by Lucy Mae Turner, Granddaughter of Nat Turner).

Nat Turner
Wisconsin Historical Society.

1836. Sam Houston's proslavery men forced the secession of Texas from Mexico. In 1844, slaveowner, James Polk, won the presidential election on an annexationist platform. Texas became a state in 1845.

1839. Slaves aboard the *Amistad* seized the slave ship and obtained freedom after a long legal battle.

Joseph Cinque, African prince, leader of the revolt aboard the slave ship *Amistad.*
From the collections of the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

1841. Black inventor, Norbert Rillieux, obtained a patent on a vacuum-pan, sugar-refining process (Louis Haber, *Black Pioneers of Science and Invention,* pp. 13-23).

1846. Southern slavemasters desperately needed new land to expand their slave economy and for this reason involved the United States in a war with Mexico (William Loren Katz, *Eyewitness: The Negro in American History,* pp. 102-113).

Henry David Thoreau went to jail rather than pay his taxes during the war; and having served in the invasion, Ulysses S. Grant said; "I do not think there was ever a more wicked war than that waged by the United States on Mexico" (William Loren Katz, *Eyewitness: The Negro in American History,* p. 78).

According to the terms of the peace treaty signed in 1848, Mexico lost half of its national territory—over 900,000 square miles constituting California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona, a substantial part of New Mexico and small parts of Colorado and Wyoming. The Mexican, Spanish and Indian people of the area were shamefully exploited and proslavery attitudes became prevalent in many of the new territories.

Frederick Douglass.
Wisconsin Historical Society

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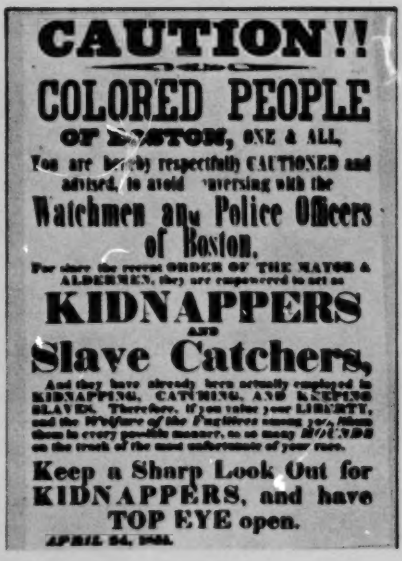
1847. The first issue of Frederick Douglas' *North Star* appeared. This was the ninth Black paper since *Freedom's Journal* (Philip S. Foner, *The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass,* pp. 84-89).

1848. The following are statements on the Mexican War from the January 28 issue of the *North Star:* ". . . the evil spreads. Large demands are made on the national treasury, (to wit: the poor man's pockets) . . . The curse is upon us . . . The people appear to be completely in the hands of office seekers, demagogues and political gamblers . . . a general outcry is heard . . . 'Mexico must be humbled! . . . National Honor! . . . Free institutions!' " (Philip S. Foner, *The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass,* 1950, Vol. I, p. 292).

1848. Henry Brown, a Virginia slave, climbed into a box and had a white friend nail it up and send him by express to Philadelphia.

Henry 'Box' Brown makes his escape from slavery.
Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College.



CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid [illegible] with the

Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

KIDNAPPERS AND Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, [illegible] them in every possible manner, as so many HOUNDS on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.

Black abolitionists issue a warning.
New York Public Library.

1848. Slaves, William and Ellen Craft, made a dramatic escape from Macon, Georgia.

1850. A more effective Fugitive Slave Act was passed. Slaveholders were allowed to pursue their "property" into other states. Federal marshals were instructed to aid slaveowners (William Loren Katz, *Eyewitness: The Negro in American History, pp. 188-189 and John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom,* pp. 260-265 and pp. 367-370).

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1852. "What to the American slave is your Fourth of July? . . . To him your celebration is a sham . . . Your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solomnity, are to him mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocracy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages (from a speech of Frederick Douglass, Rochester, N. Y., July 4th)."

1853. In spite of wide-spread racism, white waiters in New York supported Black waiters in their successful demand for $16.00 per month (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* p. 10).

1854. The "Knights of the Golden Circle" was organized. This was a slave-expansionist scheme designed to make Havana the center of a huge slave empire. Plans came to an end with the onset of the Civil War (John Hope Franklin, *The Militant South,* pp. 124-128).

1854. Joshua Glover, a slave who escaped from Missouri and who sought asylum in Racine, Wisconsin, was arrested by two United States marshals and taken to a Milwaukee, Wisconsin jail. "A hundred determined men landed by boat from Racine" and "great crowds gathered about the county jail." They demanded the slave's right to writ of habeas corpus and a trial by jury, but the federal officers would not recognize its validity. The jail doors were then battered down and the slave taken to Canada and freedom. The sheriff arrested the slave-master (B. S. Garland) and the two marshals on a charge of assult. Garland obtained his release on a writ of habeas corpus, but Sherman Booth, a newspaper editor, who had taken a leading part in the meeting to free Glover was arrested, along with two others, and a grand jury found a bill of indictment against them. After the State Supreme Court declared the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 unconstitutional, the United States Supreme Court reversed and sentenced Booth to one month in the county jail and $1,000 fine plus costs. In addition, the owner of the slave obtained judgement against Booth for $1,000—the value of the slave. The Glover episode was a potent factor in pushing the legislature, in 1857, to enact a law "to prevent kidnapping" (Henry E. Legler, *Leading Events in Wisconsin History,* pp. 226-229).

1855. Mifflin Wistar Gibbs helped to publish *The Mirror of the Times,* the first Black-oriented newspaper in California. After studying law, he was appointed County Attorney of Pulaski County in Little Rock, Arkansas, and in 1873, he was elected to the office of City Judge—the first Black person in the nation elected to such a post. In 1867, he was appointed United States Consul to Madagascar, another first.

1857. Historical Notes. William Noland (1811-1880), Madison resident, 1850-1880, was a barber, baker, chiropodist, ice cream maker, musician, veterinarian, grocery operator, clothes cleaner and dyer. Governor Bashford appointed him in 1857 as Wisconsin's first Black notary public. Noland attempted to organize volunteers for the Civil War, but received no response from Governor Randall. He achieved public notice when he refused to cut the hair of a slave catcher. In 1866, one week after Black people had gotten their citizenship in Wisconsin, he was drafted by the Democrats to run for Mayor of Madison. He declined because of the Democrats' hostility to equal rights, but nevertheless, got one-fourth of the votes cast (*Madison Press Connection,* April 16, 1979, p. 8).

1857. Supreme Court Chief Justice, Roger Taney, delivering the majority opinion, declared that Dred Scott was a slave, not a citizen, and "had no rights which a white man was bound to respect." Commented Frederick Douglass, "This very attempt to blow out forever the hopes of an enslaved people may be one necessary link in the chain of events preparatory to the downfall and complete overthrow of the whole slave system" (Philip S. Foner, *Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass,* Vol. 2, p. 412).

1859. On October 16, John Brown and 21 men, five of them Black, began their raid on Harper's Ferry. Clarence Darrow described this martyr against slavery as: ". . . a type that here and there through the ages has been needful to kindle a flame that should burn the decaying institutions and ancient wrongs in a crucible of a world's awakening wrath."

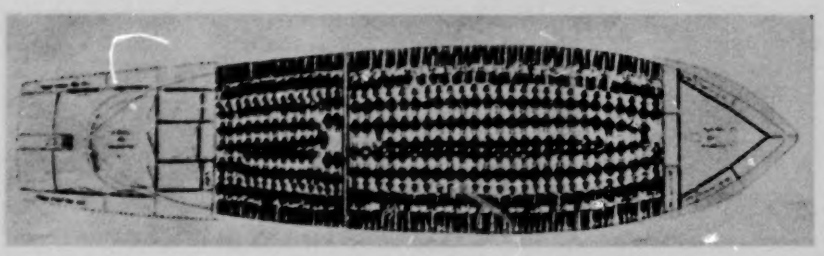
John A. Copeland, a fugitive slave who was sentenced to die along with Brown states: "If I am dying for freedom, I could not die for a better cause—I had rather die than be a slave!" (Herbert Aptheker, *John Brown,* pp. 3 and 21; Benjamin Quarles, *Blacks on John Brown,* Brown, 1859; and W. E. B. Du Bois, *John Brown,* New World, 1962).

1860. Martin R. Delany, doctor, dentist, explorer, Civil War Major and politician, traveled to Nigeria in search of Black commercial and cultural ties and possibilities of emigration (M. R. Delany and Robert Campbell, *Search for A Place: Black Separatism and Africa,* 1860).

1860. Fugitive slave, Charles Nalle, was taken by slave catchers. Harriet Tubman led the battle that freed him from the police at Troy, New York (Earl Conrad, *Harriet Tubman,* pp. 131-138).

Fleeing the slave catchers.
Library of Congress.

1860. By this time some 15 million Africans had been brought to the Americas. An estimated three out of four died in the slaving wars, were killed resisting enslavement or died of disease en route to the Americas. Thus, it can be estimated that Africa lost 60 million people.



Cross section of a typical slave ship. *New York Public Library.*

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The Civil War

Until 1840 the predominant power in the U. S. was the slaveholding class which had always dominated the presidency, the Supreme Court, the press, churches and schools.

Industrialization expanded beginning in the 1840's, and with it, rapid urbanization, mostly in the North. The northern merchant and industrial classes which had formerly dealt in southern agricultural products, became engaged in handling both agricultural and industrial products of the North, thus coming into direct conflict with the slaveholders who they felt stood in the way of expansion.

This caused a split in the Democratic Party with one wing supporting the South (Breckinridge of Kentucky) and the other (Douglas of Illinois) supporting the North in the 1860 elections.

In addition, a more progressive section which developed into the Republican Party, was supported by a large section of the working people (many of them exiles from revolutionary Europe of 1830 and 1848) and a powerful abolitionist movement of both Blacks and whites.

As the large slaveholding class became more concentrated, the internal conflicts within the South became more acute. There was strong unrest among the slaves and the non-slaveholding poor whites. In eight slaveholding states, the question of secession was never submitted for a vote, and in two others, a vote was taken only after the war had started—and here about one-third voted against secession—with a large section of the poor and landless not voting. The literary portrayal of a monolithic south was a myth. It was in desperation, then, that the slaveholding South turned to war as their last hope of sustaining and expanding their system.

The ultimate collapse of the South, in spite of superior resources, military training and supplies, can be attributed to lack of popular support among whites. In addition, at least a half million slaves fled North, many to join the Union Army. Many who remained behind became the "eyes and ears" of the Union Army.

1860. South Carolina seceded on December 20.

1861. On April 12, Fort Sumter was fired on. Abraham Lincoln attempted to fight a "constitutional" war—with or without slavery. Said Frederick Douglass: "The simple way, then, to put an end to the savage and desolating war now waged by the slaveholders is to strike down slavery itself, the prime cause of the war" (Philip S. Foner, *The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass,* Vol. 3 p. 94).

1861. On April 29, three hundred Black men of Washington, D. C., offered their services for the Union Army, but the offer was refused. Similar offers came from New York, Michigan and elsewhere, but all were rejected.

1861. In May, after General Butler entered Fort Monroe, Virginia thousands of slaves seeking freedom beseiged the camp. By 1861, a Confederate general estimated that North Carolina lost a million dollars worth of slaves each week (Herbert Aptheker, *American Negro slave Revolts,* pp. 359-374).

1862. Under pressure from both Black and white antislavery leaders, the first Black regiment was formed. Over 200,000 Black men fought in the Union armies in 450 battles; 40,000 were killed. Segregated troops lasted until the Korean War in the 1950's (Thomas W. Higginson, *Army Life in a Black Regiment).*

1863. Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1. Welcomed by Black conventions, trade unions and Republican press, the Proclamation caused Democrats to call Lincoln a dictator and southern religious bodies to unite in protest (Frederick Douglas, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglas,* pp. 351-357 and William Z. Foster, *The Negro People in American History,* p. 256).

1863. Harriet Tubman of Underground Railroad fame (she brought 300 slaves to freedom) organized and led guerrilla raids into Confederate territory (Earl Conrad, *Harriet Tubman,* pp. 169-178).

Harriet Tubman as a soldier.
Crown Publishers.

1864. Three hundred Black prisoners at Fort Pillow were massacred during April by orders of Confederate General Nathan B. Forrest, who later became the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan (W. E. B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America,* p. 114).

1865. The Freedman's Bureau was created on March 3.

1865. Abraham Lincoln investigated the possibility of deporting all Black people to Africa (W. E. B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America,* pp. 145-149).

1865. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14. Former slave-owner, Andrew Johnson, became president.

1865. The 13th Amendment was passed on December 18.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

1865. To the Honorable, the Senate and Assembly of the State of Wisconsin, at Madison Assembled:

The undersigned Colored Citizens of the State of Wisconsin, respectfully petition your Honorable bodies and ask that the necessary legal steps be taken, and provision made in accordance with the Constitution of this State, to submit the question of granting the right of suffrage to Colored Men of the age of twenty-one years, to the voters of this State in the next general election. We respectfully submit that by Law we are taxed and liable to Military Duty as other men. It seems to us but justice that we should have a voice in determining how the taxes should be expended, and how and when our services shall be rendered.

Dated January 24th, 1865; signed by 102 citizens of color. (Original document from State Historical Society of Wisconsin).

Reconstruction and Post-Reconstruction

Reconstruction was a continuing phase of the Civil War with the stage of armed conflict passing into a primarily political struggle to consolidate the victory over slavery. The fight for democracy required the recognition of the former slaves as citizens (14th Amendment, Section 1), while at the same time disfranchising those State and Federal elected officials and officers who participated in the rebellion (Fourteenth Amendment, Section 3).

There was much popular support, too, in the formation of the Union leagues, citizen's militias, and the people's assemblies.

The Reconstruction Act was passed on March 2, 1867. For the first time Black men participated in political conventions, helped write new state constitutions and held office. Twenty Black men were elected to Congress and two became Senators. Hundreds held office on state and municipal levels, and because of pressure primarily from Black people, the South, for the first time, got a public school system.

In this period the U.S. maintained troops in the South to enforce the laws arising out of the war—laws designed to give freedom and democracy to former slaves and free Negroes. Without the troops, free elections would have been impossible.

This period also saw rapid industrialization and especially the growth of railroads. Banking and industrial capital became the dominant power and the major force against continued democratization of the South. This led to the betrayal of Reconstruction. Failure to confiscate the plantations of the old slaveocracy and divide them up among the freedmen permitted the emergence of a semi-feudal agrarian economy based on share cropping—sometimes referred to as the 'debt-slavery' system. In addition, President Johnson had earlier pardoned 14,000 top confederates, thus aiding in the restoration of political power to the old planter class.

In the Hayes-Tilden dispute for the presidency, Rutherford Hayes agreed to remove federal troops from the South in return for the backing of northern industrialists who now saw it in their interest to undermine the powers of the 15th Amendment—to rob free Black Americans of their right to vote.

With the troops gone, the Ku Klux Klan slaughter of Blacks (and white Republicans) accelerated. Black codes were established to "legally" control Negro farm labor. Segregation laws were passed and the so-called "state's rights" laws allowed for the disfranchisment of Blacks and poor whites.

While the destruction of slavery as a social system was revolutionary, the fatal weakness of Reconstruction was the failure to break up the great landed estates and provide land (and continuing political and legal rights) for the freedmen. Much of the abandoned land was bought up by northern speculators, while the railroad promoters received gifts of no less than 160,000,000 acres from the states and from the federal government as well as vast money grants (William Z. Foster, *Outline Political History of the Americas;* W. E. B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America;* James S. Allen, *Reconstruction: The Battle for Democracy;* Ida B. Wells-Barnett, *On Lynching;* John Hope Franklin, *From Slavery to Freedom;* Allen W. Trelease, *White Terror;* William Loren Katz, *Eyewitness: The Negro in American History;* Lerone Bennett, *Black Power, U. S. A.*).

Burning a freedmen's school during a riot in Memphis in 1866. *American History Division, New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.*

1867. The Reconstruction Act was passed on March 2.

1867. In April, the first national meeting of the Ku Klux Klan was the beginning of a reign of terror and death against Black and white Republicans. Blacks fought back and held office until the turn of the century. The last Black Congressman, until 1928, was George H. White of North Carolina, who remained in office until 1901 (John Hope Franklin, *Reconstruction after the Civil War,* p. 154).

1867. Address of the Colored Convention to the people of Alabama: "it will not be amiss to say that we claim exactly the same rights, privileges and immunities as are enjoyed by white men—we ask nothing more and will be content with nothing less . . ." (James S. Allen, *Reconstruction: The Battle for Democracy,* p. 236).

1868. Reconstruction was undermined. Two state senators and 75 state representatives from the Georgia Legislature were expelled because they were Negroes. Representative Henry M. Turner protested the expulsion in the House: ". . . The scene presented in the House today is one unparalleled in the history of the world. From this day . . . no analogy for it can be found. Never, in the history of the world, has a man been arraigned before a body clothed with legislative, judicial or executive functions and charged with the offence of being of a darker hue than his fellowmen . . . The Anglo-Saxon race, sir, is a most surprising one . . . I was not aware that there was in the character of that race so much cowardice, or so much pusillanimity . . ." (Herbert Aptheker, ed. *A Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* Vol. 2, pp. 569-571).

1868. The 14th Amendment was passed on July 28.

Section I. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. (In *Brown vs. Board of Education,* 1954, the Supreme Court declared that to segregate school children by race was a denial of "the equal protection of the laws" under the Fourteenth Amendment. More recent cases under this amendment have protected Blacks' rights to equality and peaceful protest against grievance.)

Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

1869. Frances E. W. Harper, noted poet, published her *Moses, Story of the Nile.* Also of this general period was William Wells Brown, whose *Narrative* appeared in 1849; his first novel was published in 1853.

1870. The 15th Amendment was passed on March 30.

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

1884. European powers came to an agreement on the division of Africa. The United States was the first nation to recognize and approve the rule of King Leopold over the people of the Congo. Vast slaughter of the Congolese people followed. Mark Twain's exposure of the slaughter *(King Leopold's Soliloquy),* in 1905 was suppressed when the Morgans, Rockerfellers and the Guggenheims became financially involved in the Congo ("Introduction", *King Leopold's Soliloquy,* pp. 12-17 and Edwin P. Hoyt, Jr., *The Guggenheims and the American Dream,* pp. 151-153).

Congolese victims of King Leopold's policy. Refusal to work or inability to "make quotas" was punished by loss of a hand. Thousands suffered this fate.

Seven Seas Publishers, Berlin.

Black Organizational Activities From Civil War to 1900: Labor, Press, Educational, Political, Fraternal, Legal

1862. The American Seamen's Protective Association, a pioneer organization of Negro Labor, and the first seamen's organization of any kind, was formed in New York (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* pp. 14-15).

1866. Isaac Myers, who became the first important Black labor leader in America, organized a cooperative shipyard, the Chesapeake Marine Railway and Dry Dock Company. He also helped to organize, and became president of, the Colored Caulkers' Trade Union Society of Baltimore (Philip Foner, *Organized labor and the Black Worker,* pp. 21-22).

1867. Black Longshoremen, in Charleston, S. C., organized the Longshoremen's Protective Union Association and won a strike for higher wages (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* p. 22).

1868. Philadelphia saw the organization of a Colored Brickmakers' Association as well as a Hod Carriers and Laborers' Association, and a Workingman's Union (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker* pp. 21-22).

1869. On December 6, 214 delegates from 18 states assembled in Union League Hall in Washington, D. C., and formed the Colored National Labor Union. They admitted both white and women delegates. Unlike the white National Labor Union, they opened their ranks to Chinese workers and to common laborers as well as skilled crafts. Isaac Myers, President, castigated white artisans for being "organized for the extermination of colored labor" and stated that Black and white labor must come together for mutual benefit (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* 1619-1973, pp. 30-46).

1871. The Southern States Convention of Colored Men met in October in Columbia, South Carolina, to consider the political and civil rights of Negroes (Philip Foner, *Organized labor and the Black Worker,* pp. 42-43).

1871. On May 12, a young boy launched a "sit-in" aboard a segregated Louisville horse-drawn streetcar. "Screaming white teenagers cursed him, and eventually dragged him from the car. When the youth finally fought back, he was arrested. In the days that followed, other Negroes—mostly young men—entered streetcars and sat strong and silent in the face of abuse . . . The Louisville company, in the face of mounting violence and opposition, agreed to integrate their street railway" (William Loren Katz, *Eyewitness: The Negro in American History,* p. 343).

1872. Black inventor, Elijah McCoy, obtained a patent for a lubrication device.

1875. Representatives of 12 Black newspapers met in Cincinnati, August 4, to explore ways and means to sustain the Black press and to encourage a greater number of readers (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* Vol. 2, pp. 643-4).

1875. James Augustine Healy became the first Black Catholic Bishop.

1876. The art works of Edmonia Lewis were shown at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition.

Edmonia Lewis.
Wisconsin Historical Society.

1876. South Carolina rice workers went on strike against payment of wages in scrip redeemable only in company stores, a practice supposedly prohibited by law.

1879. Thousands of Black people fled the terror, peonage, disfranchisement and lack of educational facilities in Louisiana and elsewhere. In spite of these difficulties, Black organizational activities continued as five new Black colleges, six newspapers and various political, economic, social, and professional groups were established (Herbert Aptheker, ed., *A Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* Vol. 2, pp. 645-749 and pp. 713-723).

1882. In October, 1882 a state convention of 50 Rhode Island Negroes representing 7,000 Negroes in that state met in Newport. They expressed a very critical attitude toward the Republican Party and indicated a desire to support the best representative regardless of party (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* Vol. 2, p. 685).

1883. A Civil Rights Mass Meeting was held at Lincoln Hall, October 22, Washington D. C., to build civil rights organizations throughout the country for the purpose of securing all citizenship rights (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* Vol. 2, pp. 658-9).

1883. The death of Sojourner Truth ended a lifetime struggle for emancipation and women's rights. "The man over there says women need to be helped into carriages and lifted over ditches, and to have the best places everywhere," she declared. "Nobody ever helps me into carriages or over puddles, or gives me the best place—and ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most of 'em sold into slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me—and ain't I a woman?" (Lucy Komisar, *The New Feminism,* p. 89).

1884. Granville T. Woods received a patent on a telephone transmitter. He also obtained patents on a railway telegraphy system (1887) and an automatic air brake (1902).

1884. Ida B. Wells-Barnett successfully sued the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad for Jim Crow treatment. This incident began her lifelong crusade for justice (Alfreda Duster, ed., *Crusade for Justice: Autobiography of Ida B. Wells).*

1884. Former Black Reconstruction Congressman John Roy Lynch was elected temporary chairman of the Republican convention in Washington, D. C., the first Black to preside over a national political gathering (*The Negro Almanac,* 1976, p. 21).

1885. Thirty-Eight Negro leaders issued a call for a conference on industrial schools to be held at New Orleans, January 15 (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States.* Vol. 2, pp. 650-1).

1887. Formation of the first Black baseball team, the Union giants, in Chicago.

1887. On October 24th, 9,000 Louisiana Negroes and 1,000 white workers from the Knights of Labor District Assembly 194, representing the sugar workers of four parishes, went on strike for higher wages. Governor McEnery, enraged at Black-white cooperation ("God Almighty has himself drawn the color line") called in the militia who killed and wounded nine Negro strikers. Armed whites drove others from their homes killing about 30. Two strikers who had been jailed, George and Henry Cox, were taken from their cells and lynched. The strike was successful on only a few of the plantations. The national leadership of the Knights of Labor took little interest in the strike or in the violence against Black workers (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* pp. 60-61).

A study done by W. E. B. Du Bois, showed that 43 national unions in both Northern and Southern states had no Black members. 27 others had almost none because they barred Negro apprentices.

1889. Frederick Douglass was appointed United States Minister to Haiti.

1890. By the beginning of the 1890's, there were 154 Black newspapers.

1890. Bishop Henry McNeal Turner, a former Georgia legislator, saw no hope for reforming white America and turned to African emigration (Edwin S. Redkey, *Black Exodus: Black Nationalist and Back-to-Africa Movements, 1890-1910,* pp. 24-46).

1890. The Mississippi Constitutional Convention began the systematic exclusion of Blacks from the political arena by adopting literacy and other complex "understanding" tests as prerequisites to voting. Seven other states followed suit by 1910 (*The Negro Almanac,* 1976, p. 21).

1892. In 1892, New Orleans experienced a remarkable display of racial unity as 25,000 white and Black workers, representing forty different AFL unions, paralyzed the city with a four-day general strike. "With one fell swoop," exclaimed the astonished Samuel Gompers, "the economic barrier of color was broken down". The Sherman Anti-trust Act was first invoked against organized labor in this southern effort of 1892. Eight years later biracial solidarity had been so shattered in New Orleans that Negro unions were refused admission to the Central Labor Council of the AF of L and were forced to create a segregated council for themselves (Otto H. Olsen, *The Thin Disguise,* pp. 22-23).

1886-1890 The North Carolina Teachers' Association reported on the necessity for a sound education of all citizens in 1886. They gave their support for the work of Senator Henry W. Blair in his attempt to get the national government to appropriate money for the education of illiterate youth, and finally recommended uniform examination standards and uniform salaries.

In 1887, the Mutual United Brotherhood of Liberty condemned the many legal injustices that Negroes had to face daily.

The Georgia Consultation Convention met on November 24, 1887, in Macon and condemned the chain-gang and penitentiary system of Georgia, criticized the tiny financial appropriation to Atlanta University and strongly condemned lynch law. In addition, they drew up plans for the formation of the Union Brotherhood of Georgia.

On January 15-17, 1890 in Chicago, Illinois, the Afro-American League was founded. They condemned disfranchisment of Negro people in the South, lynch law, unequal distribution of school funds, the chain-gang penal system, various forms of segregation, and low wages. Proposals were made to remedy these problems (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* Vol. 2, pp. 691-708).

1894. Mrs. Mary Church Terrell was the first Black woman to serve on a Board of Education in the United States. She was one of three women appointed to the Board in Washington, D. C.

1895. Frederick Douglass died.

1896. Mrs. Mary Church Terrell was the first President of the National Association of Colored Women.

1896. William Edward Burghardt Du Bois published the Harvard Historical Series No. 1, *The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America.* This was the first of 35 volumes of African and Afro-American history written or edited by W. E. B. Du Bois.

1897. A. J. Beard invented the automatic railroad car coupling.

1898. The Afro-American Labor and Protective Association of Birmingham opposed the recruiting of Negro strike-breakers for the Chicago-Virden Company in its struggle with the United Mine Workers, but labor agents began to recruit the Blacks over its opposition. When the recruited miners arrived and learned that a strike was in effect, they "complained that they had been deceived by the operators, and most of them refused to work. Deputies stationed on the grounds were charged with threatening to shoot Negroes who attempted to leave" (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker*, p. 77).

During the Civil War and Reconstruction Period it was the rising northern industrial class which initially endorsed Black voting as a means of securing Republican rule in the South and in the nation. They endorsed elements of a progressive program—the ballot, property rights, wage labor and education—programs pushed for and led by Black people themselves—programs that had been denied under slavery.

After 1877, huge timber and mineral areas were opened along with railroad expansion and real estate operations. These new centers of capital power joined with the predominatly white-owned plantation economy in opposing the progressive movements in the South. This formed the basis of the 1876 Compromise—the election of Hayes and the withdrawal of federal troops from the South, thus opening the door to massive, organized violence against those supporting the Reconstruction governments.

But popular opposition to the new capital-industrial structure continued to grow in what was known as the Populist Movement, an outgrowth of the farmer's organizations—and which included industrial workers. Among the most important components of the Populists were the various Colored Farmers Alliances with organizations in twenty states, which had 1,250,000 members including 300,000 women. Other important Black organizations of that period were the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association and the Southern Alliance. They elected members to a vast number of local and state offices and became a real threat to the planter-industrial rule.

Although racism eventually became a major weapon in the breaking up of the Reconstruction and Populist coalitions, racism itself was not a self-generated, inherent force among the rank-and-file of white people (although certainly there was a carry-over of racism from the slave period). It was not the poor whites who were threatened by popular movements—in fact, they were part of them. It was the developing corporate structure that was being challenged. And it is out of this context that the segregation and disfranchisment laws became the weapons that were used against both Blacks and poor whites. The segregation laws legalized by the Supreme Court in 1896 (reversed in 1954) made it illegal for Blacks and whites to work together in all areas of their lives, while the disfranchisment laws (called "states-rights") made it impossible for millions to use the ballot to change those laws. Thus disfranchisement and enforced separation on the basis of color are to be seen as forms of "racial" *and* class controls—both had identical roots. It was in this manner that political action by the working people was destroyed. And where this kind of "legal" action was not effective enough, extensive Klan violence became common.

It was in this environment without legal or political rights that southern, rural Blacks and many poor whites entered the 20th Century.

Consequently, it was the entire pattern of social and economic forces to which Afro-Americans responded, not just racial oppression.

All this had a direct impact on the many forms of Black struggles and search for solutions, whether the accommodation program of Booker T. Washington, the nationalist's back-to-Africa theme, or the struggle for "manhood rights" as exemplified by Du Bois. And although some of them appear to have been racial struggles, there were many economic, legal and political struggles as well.

(Judith Stein, "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and others: The Political Economy of Racism in the United States," *Science & Society,* Volume 38, #4; Rayford W. Logan, *The Betrayal of the Negro;* C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow;* Herbert Aptheker, "Peonage and Antipeonage to World War II," *Afro-American History: The Modern Era;* Allen W. Trelease, *White Terror: The Ku Klux Klan Conspiracy and Southern Reconstruction;* James S. Allen, *Reconstruction: The Battle for Democracy 1865-1876).*

Essential to the development of the South and West by the banking and industrial interests was the control of the working section of the population. To this end violent racism was one of the means of subjugation.

Complementing this was the use of charity and paternalism. This method of control was favored by a group of millionaire bankers and industrialists who were behind the financing of Tuskegee College, headed by Booker T. Washington.

Washington, noted for his work in education, felt that close ties with the "better class" of whites, rather than open struggle against racism, would lead to a solution of the problems faced by Black America.

When he spoke at the Atlanta Cotton Exposition in 1895, he was widely hailed by most of the white press for his remarks. He stated: "In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers . . . The wisest of my race understand that the agitation of questions of social equality is extremest folly . . ." (Booker T. Washington, *Up From slavery*, p. 221).

Funding his school were such millionaire financiers, industrialists and philanthropists as Jacob Schiff, William H. Baldwin (President of Long Island Railroad), J. G. Phelps Stokes, George Foster Peabody, Robert C. Ogden, Andrew Carnegie, Lyman Abbott (Former editor of *Harper's*), Henry Clews, and members of the Southern "aristocracy," J. L. M. Curry of Alabama, John M. Parker of Louisiana, Alfred H. Stone of Mississippi, and Henry Watterson of Kentucky (Herbert Aptheker, *Afro-American History: The Modern Era*. pp. 118-158).

In criticism of Washington's policies, W. E. B. Du Bois stated: ". . . manly self-respect is worth more than lands and houses, and that a people who voluntarily surrender such respect, or cease striving for it, are not worth civilizing.

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"In answer to this, it has been claimed that the Negro can survive only through submission. Mr. Washington distinctly asks that black people give up, at least for the present, three things—First political power. Second, insistance on civil rights. Third, higher education of Negro youth . . . As a result of this tender of the palmbranch, what has been the return? In these years there have occurred: 1. The disfranchisment of the Negro. 2. The legal creation of a distinct status of civil inferiority for the Negro. 3. The steady withdrawal of aid from institutions for the higher training of the Negro . . . The question then comes: Is it possible, and probable, that nine millions of men can make effective progress in economic lines if they are deprived of political rights, made a servile caste, and allowed only the most meagre chance for developing their exceptional men?" (W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk,* pp. 41-59).

Whatever the pragmatic advantages of Washington's program may have been, his widely publicized speech constituted a convenient mandate for Jim Crow shortly before it received the Supreme Court's blessing (Otto H. Olsen, *The Thin Disguise,* pp. 24-5).

This was the period when the Jim Crow laws nulified all the gains of Reconstruction. Through various unconstitutional gimmicks almost all voting rights were lost. Enforced segregation became the tool for dividing Black and white workers and farmers.

1896. The Supreme Court issued its *Plessy vs. Ferguson* decision. In upholding the separatist laws, the Court denied that Jim Crow was oppressive. The decision denied the possibility of establishing social mores by legislation, even though that was the entire intent of the Jim Crow laws. Because of the demands of white supremacy, individuals could no longer function freely and were forcefully separated by color. Everything became separated, from telephone booths to graveyards for pets (Otto H. Olsen, "Introduction," *The Thin Disguise: Plessy vs. Ferguson*).

These Jim Crow laws coincided with the appearance of American monopolies of the Rockerfellers, Carnegies, Armours and Morgans—especially with the Spanish-American War when American imperialism came on the scene. Following the emergence of American Imperialism and closely connected, were the historical works of Columbia scholars, John W. Burgess and William Dunning, whose works on Reconstruction portrayed Black people as childlike and savage. Historian, James Ford Rhodes, painted the same picture. In so far as these works became the accepted version of history, a racist interpretation of events was continued in later textbooks (Carter G. Woodson, ed., "Historian on Reconstruction", *Journal of Negro History,* Vol. 23, January, 1938, pp. 16-34).

1896. The National League of Colored Women and the National Federation of Colored Women combined to form the National Association of Colored Women. They organized to fight against all forms of discrimination, violence, disfranchisement—especially as it related to women's suffrage rights (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States from Reconstruction to 1910,* p. 887).

1898. American expansion continued with increased and continuing rapidity and was accompanied by the growth of huge personal fortunes, the development of monopolies and overseas investments, along with the forceful appropriation of Cuba, the Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico and Hawaii—all this interlocked with intensified segregation of Afro-Americans.

In the conquest of the Philippines, racist feelings led to a wanton slaughter of the people. Stated a volunteer from the state of Washington, "Our fighting blood was up and we all wanted to kill 'niggers' . . ." (Daniel B. Schirmer, *Republic or Empire; American Resistance to the Philippine War,* p. 142. Also see Philip S. Foner, *The Spanish-Cuban-American War and the Birth of American Imperialism,* 2 volumes).

Said Moorfield Storey, first president of the NAACP: "Our Philippine policy is wrong. I feel that it is also responsible for the reaction at home against the Negroes."

After gaining control of the Virgin Islands (90 percent Black), the United States instituted military control from 1917 to 1931. American marines occupied the Dominican Republic from 1916 to 1924 and Haiti from 1917 to 1934. Economic and political control were maintained thereafter with the marines being used as needed (*An Introduction to Neo-Colonialism,* Jack Woddis, p. 47—Comments by Marine Corps Major General Smedley D. Butler).

1898. Addition of a 'Grandfather Clause' to the Louisiana state constitution enabled poor whites to qualify for the franchise, while curtailing Black registration. In 1896, there were over 130,000 Black voters on the Louisiana rolls. Four years later, the number was about 5,000 (*The Negro Almanac,* 1976, p. 23).

1900-1910 Although Samuel Gompers and the American Federation of Labor in its early days spoke strongly of the need to organize and work with Black Labor, by the early 1900's, Gompers had become racist. He gave vigorous assistance to Congress when it passed the notorious Chinese Exclusion Act, and at his insistance, the 1904 AFL National Convention passed a resolution calling for the Chinese Exclusion Act to be amended to include Japanese and Koreans. In 1906, when the IWW organized the Japanese and Chinese in the lumber camps, Gompers instructed the Rock Springs Local to exclude all Asians. The AFL also spearheaded the movement for more stringent legislation restricting immigration to the "right" people. Gompers, in his autobiography wrote: "That was a day before there was a general understanding of the principle that the maintenance of the nation depended upon the maintenance of racial purity and strength (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* pp. 249-250)."

1900. Alexander Walters, Bishop of the A. M. E. Z. Church, presided over the first Pan-African Congress, held in London. Secretary of the Congress, was Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States, 1910-1932,* p. 179).

W. E. B. Du Bois.
Du Bois Estate

1900-1940 Although Congress had specifically outlawed peonage in 1867, the evil had not been abolished in practice. There were few prosecutions against the southern planters, yet the Georgia (white) Baptist Convention, held in Augusta on November 11, 1939, stated, "Peonage or debt slavery has by no means disappeared from our land. There are more white people affected by this diabolical practice than were slaveholders; there are more Negroes held by these debt slavers than were actually owned as slaves before the war between the states" (Herbert Aptheker, *Afro-American History,* p. 192).

1902. Former slave, Susie King Taylor, wrote her *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp.* She had been a Civil War nurse, teacher and cook.

1903. W. E. B. Du Bois published *Souls of Black Folk.*

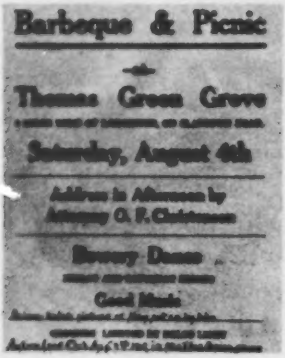
1903. The National Association of Afro-American Steam and Gas Engineers and Skilled Laborers was founded. This association became important in Pittsburgh.

1905. The Niagara Movement was formed with W. E. B. Du Bois as the primary leader. The aim was to reject paternalism, inferiority and charity and to fight for the full manhood of Black people the world over (Herbert Aptheker, *Afro-American History: The Modern Era,* pp. 127-158).

Other organizations of the period included: The National Afro-American League; The National Association of Colored Women, 1893; American Negro Academy, 1897; The Negro Businessmen's League, 1900; *The Boston Guardian Newspaper,* 1901; *Voice of the Negro* (Atlanta), 1904; *Chicago Defender,* 1905.

1906. In Atlanta, white mobs took to the streets and slaughtered Black people, looting and burning their homes. In Brownsville, Texas, that same year, President Theodore Roosevelt dismissed an entire Black batallion of the 25th Regiment after they had defended themselves from a white mob. In 1973, a surviving soldier of the batallion won an honorable discharge (*Wisconsin State Journal* and *Capital Times,* February 12, 1973; *Baltimore Afro-American,* February 17, 1973).

1906. The Autumn Leaf Club, a social and self-help organization, was granted a charter in 1906. Located in Lancaster, Wisconsin, 85 miles southwest of Madison, about 200 Negro people worked and farmed and had small businesses in this area. Today this community has more or less disappeared from view owing to death, migration and intermarriage.



Wisconsin State Historical Society

1906. Lucian H. Palmer was the first Black man elected to the Wisconsin Assembly (*Madison Capital Times,* January 2, 1973).

1907. Nat Love, Black cowboy, better known as "Deadwood Dick", published his autobiography, *Life and Adventures of Nat Love.*

1908. An anti-Negro riot took place in Springfield, Illinois, when a white woman admitted before a grand jury that she had falsely accused a Black man of rape. A white mob nevertheless went on a rampage; killing, burning homes and looting. The white leaders were not punished (John Hope Franklin, *From Slavery to Freedom,* p. 443).

1909. On April 6, Matthew Henson was the first man to reach the North Pole (Bradley Robinson with Matthew Hanson, *Dark Companion).*

1909-1910 The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded. Its purposes were recorded: "To promote equality of rights and eradicate caste or race prejudice among the citizens of the United States; to advance the interest of the colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and to increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for their children, employment according to their ability, and complete equality before the law."

1910. The National Urban League was founded.

1911. NAACP reported 71 known and documented lynchings.

1913. Noble Drew Ali founded the first Moorish-American Science Temple.

1914. Ida B. Wells, fearless crusader against lynching, founded the Alpha Suffrage Club in Chicago in order to organize women to campaign among Black men to vote in Favor of Women's suffrage.

1915. In 1915, the U. S. Supreme Court declared the 'grandfather clause' unconstitutional.

1915. NAACP reported 80 more lynchings: "A typical Year."

Wisconsin State Historical Society

1915. The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Dr. Woodson, son of Virginia slaves, got his PhD at Harvard. He contributed greatly to research, writing and publishing of Afro-American history.

1916. Dr. Woodson founded the Associated Publishers as well as the *Journal of Negro History.* In his lifetime, he wrote or coauthored several dozen volumes of Black history.

1916. The Amenia Conference composed of 50 Black men and women and three whites was called on August 24, at Amenia, New York, for the purpose of dealing with all aspects of racial discrimination. (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* 1910-1932, pp. 488-493).

1916. Despair and hopelessness in racist America led to a form of "Negro Zionism" and Black pride in the Universal Negro Improvement Association of Marcus Garvey. Although this was one of the first real mass movements of Black Americans, Black separatism and "Back to Africa" themes doomed this program to failure as the major evils of segregation and exploitation were not attacked (John Hope Franklin, *From Slavery to Freedom,* p. 492).

1917. With the onset of World War I, President Wilson abolished most jobs that Black people had held in the federal government. Sixty-six lynchings were reported in 1916, forty-four in 1917. That year (July 1-3) in East St. Louis, white mobs murdered 125 Black people, and destroyed 300 homes (Elliott M. Rudwick, *Race Riot at East St. Louis,* July 2, 1917).

When Black soldiers in Houston, Texas, defended themselves against a lynch mob, 99 found themselves sentenced to prison, and 13 were hanged. Two hundred thousand Black American soldiers, sent to France to fight in the war, were segregated by the American Army abroad as they had been in the United States (For a detailed accounting of lynchings over the years, see Ralph Ginzburg, *100 Years of Lynchings;* William L. Patterson, ed., *We Charge Genocide;* Rayford W. Logan, *The Betrayal of the Negro).*

1917. On July 28, a silent protest parade was held against the lynchings of Blacks. Thousands of New Yorkers marched, bearing banners saying, "Mr. President, why not make America safe for democracy?", "Give me a chance to live" and "Thou shalt not kill" (Langston Hughes and Milton Meitzer, *Pictorial History of the Negro in America,* p. 267).

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1917. In July, the formation of a Black federation of labor was attempted when the Colored Employees of America (CEA) was formed in New York City. A. Philip Randolph and Chandler Owens, Black Socialists, organized the Elevator Operators and Starters Union. This organization put forth demands for an 8-hour day, weekly pay and a minimum wage of $13.

The Crusader, a "revolutionary secret order," was founded by Cyril Briggs, Richard B. Morre, Otto Hall, Otto Huiswood, and other West Indians who had left the Harlem Socialist Party. They wanted a stronger program against colonialism and for "absolute race equality political, economic and social . . . fellowship within the darker masses and the class-conscious revolutionary white workers" (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* pp. 148-9).

1918. The National Liberty Congress, under the leadership of William Monroe Trotter, met in June, in Washington, D. C. Eighty-one people petitioned the House of Representatives asking for the abolition of segregation in all places of public accommodation and in federal buildings. They asked for equality in federal job ratings and promotions; in eating, recreation, education and health facilities; in voting rights. They also asked for protection from mob murder and for protection in the Courts. (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States 1910-1932,* pp. 215-218).

1918. The National Liberty Congress met in Washington, D. C. Eighty-one Afro-American men and women from 21 states and Washington, D. C. submitted a petition to the House of Representatives asking for relief from discrimination in employment, in government service, in public transportation, and in government buildings. They also asked for more protection by the police and the courts.

1918. Hugh Mulzac was the first Black man to win a shipmaster's license, but he was not allowed to take charge of a ship until 1942 (Hugh Mulzac, *A Star to Steer By).*

1919. The National Association of Negro Musicians had their first meeting in Chicago. In four years their membership was more than 1,000.

1919. The National Brotherhood of Workers was formed to help bring Black workers into the trade union movement and to fight against discrimination by white organized labor. Delegates came from 12 states and the District of Columbia (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* p. 151, 161).

1919. W. E. B. Du Bois was primarily instrumental in the organization of the Pan-African Congress which met in Paris on February 19-21. The major aims of the Congress were to demand basic human rights for the peoples of Africa, and equitable representation in all the international institutions of the League of Nations (Herbert Aptheker, *A Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States,* 1910-1932 p. 248-252).

1919. Colonized Africa was redivided following World War I, but the newly emerging African liberation movements forced the European powers to use less blatant methods of dividing up the spoils: The German colonies were "mandated" to South Africa and others.

1919. During the Great Steel Strike, the Commission of Inquiry of the Interchurch Work Movement noted that the steel companies imported Black workers and shifted them from plant to plant, pitting them against white workers. Failure to organize Black labor was the fault of racist whites, but Black labor got the blame for strikebreaking (William Z. Foster, *Negro People in American History*, pp. 438-439).

1920-1930 The 1920's were years of economic depression for the South. A number of white colleges were rocked by strikes, while students at Black colleges were protesting white racist control.

The Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance was a period of renewed cultural and protest expansion with historians, poets, novelists, musicians and actors exemplified by such men and women as Countee Cullen, Noble Sissle, Paul Robeson, Duke Ellington, Alain Locke, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Bessie Smith, James Weldon Johnson, Jean Toomer, Langston Hughes, Jessie Faucet, E. Franklin Frazier, Benjamin Brawley, Charles Wesley, Carter Woodson and scores more. The protest theme common to the Harlem Renaissance was summed up by Claude McKay in 1919, "If we must die, let it not be like hogs . . . Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack. Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back" (Arna Bontemps, *American Negro Poetry,* p. 31).

1920. The National Association for the Promotion of Labor Unionism among Negroes was founded.

That same year in New York, the Friends of Negro Freedom was founded to unionize migrants, protect tenants, and establish educational forums.

1921. The American Trades Council was formed in Chicago.

1921. Andrew (Rube) Foster organized the Negro National (baseball) League.

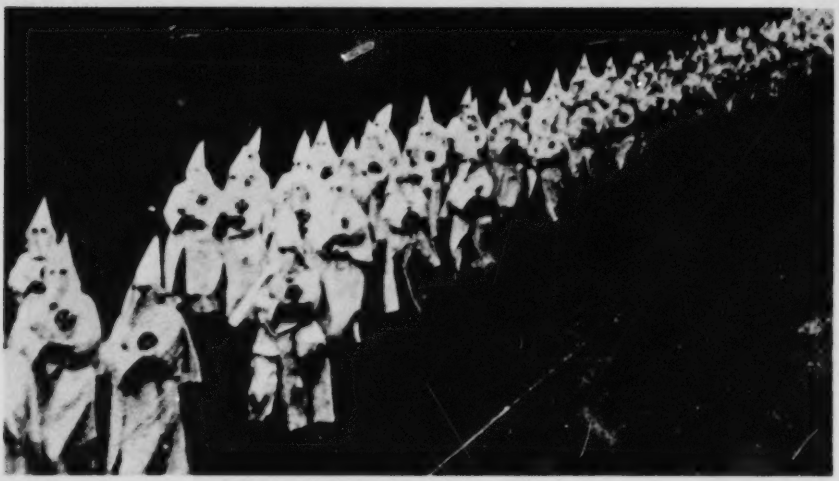
1921. At the AFL Convention of 1921, Black delegates were not permitted to present resolutions condemning the activities of the KKK. The *New York Call* declared: "it was the duty of the convention not only to consider the resolutions of the Negro delegates, but to enlarge them to automatically exclude from membership any worker who holds membership in the KKK. It was an opportunity to draw the line on this matter, not alone in the interest of Negro workers, but as a matter of self-protection for all the organized workers . . . (Phillip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* p. 166)."

1923. Garrett A. Morgan invented the traffic signal.

1924. Horace Mann Bond, writing in *Crisis* magazine, organ of the NAACP, June, 1924, exposed the racist use of intelligence testing—a gimmick designed to "prove" Black inferiority.

1924. The Ku Klux Klan marched in Madison, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin State Historical Society



1925. A. Philip Randolph organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

1925. The American Negro Labor Congress was founded in October in Chicago with 32 Black men and women and one Mexican American. They represented trade unions, women's organizations, political groups, African Student organizations. Their manifesto was in support of the struggle of the people of the exploited colonies of the world, especially in regard to the African liberation movements (Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States, 1910-1932,* pp. 488-493).

1926. Negro History Week was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History for the purpose of teaching Americans about "neglected history."

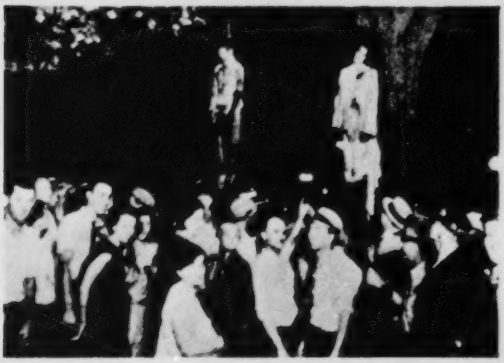
1928. Oscar de Priest was elected to Congress from Chicago. He was the first Black Congressman since 1901.

1930's In many large cities, boycotts were organized against merchants who would not hire Black labor. Their slogan was, "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work."

1931. The Nation of Islam was founded. Commonly known as Black Muslims, members of the Nation of Islam seek a solution to the problems of racism by complete separation from whites. Their religion is Moslim (Eric C. Lincoln, *The Black Muslims in America).*

1931. In Scottsboro, Alabama, nine young men were charged with "rape" and sentenced to death. William L. Patterson and the International Labor Defense organized a protest and defense that was heard around the world. The death sentences were reversed. Ralph Grey, head of the Sharecroppers Union in Alabama was lynched by a sheriff's posse at Camp Hill in Tallapoosa County, Ala., after proposing a resolution in defense of the Scottsboro victims. By 1936, this organization had some 12,000 members (Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad, *Scottsboro Boy).*

Wisconsin State Historical Society.



1931. Ida B. Wells Barnett died. Born a slave in 1862 in Holly Springs, Mississippi, she was nationally known for her struggle against lynching, writing her first pamphlet on that subject, *The Red Record,* in 1895. She became the first President of the Negro Fellowship League in 1908. In 1915 she was elected Vice-President of the Chicago Equal Rights League (Duster, Alfreda, ed., *Crusade for Justice: Autobiography of Ida B. Wells*).

1930's This was a decade of organized struggle, not only among urban workers, but among sharecroppers and tenant farmers. The Organization of the Sharecroppers Union was started in Alabama in 1931, and in the years that followed, the Sharecroppers Union, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and the Farmers Union had organized more than 300,000 tenants and sharecroppers in the South. The Southern Conference on Human Welfare was organized in Birmingham, Alabama, November 22-23, 1938, and it too, was made up of Black and white tenants and sharecroppers.

The National Negro Congress founding convention was held in Chicago on February 14-16, 1936, with 817 delegates representing 585 organizations numbering 1,200,000 people from 28 states. The President was A. Philip Randolph and the Secretary was John P. Davis.

The Southern Negro Youth Conference held its founding meeting in February, 1937, in Richmond, Virginia. Present were 534 delegates.

These organizations had many aims in common: the abolition of peonage; the struggle against lynchings, the Klan and mob rule; the fight for ownership of the land, for the extension of credit, for the right to vote, for peace and jobs; the need for Black-white unity; and the special problems faced by Black women.

In January, 1939, hundreds of sharecroppers, mostly Black, were led in a sit-down strike by a sharecropper, Reverend Owen H. Whitfield. The organizational work was assisted by the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers, CIO.

All the people in these organizations were victims of extensive intimidation and violence from the landlords, the Klan and the police. Many were killed, beaten, jailed and/or driven from their jobs (Raymond Wolters, *Negroes and the Great Depression;* Hosea Hudson, *Black Worker in the Deep South;* Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw;* Herbert Aptheker, *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States, From Reconstruction to 1910* and *1910-1932* and *1933-1945*).

1932. Angelo Herndon, Black Communist organizer, was arrested in Atlanta on a charge of "inciting insurrection" (organizing the unemployed). He was freed after a five-year battle during which hundreds of thousands of signatures were collected on his behalf (Angelo Herndon, *Let Me Live*).

1934. Fifty-two percent of the Black people in the Northern and Border states were on relief.

1935. In Lowndes County, Alabama, six were killed in a sharecroppers strike.

1935. Facist Italy invaded Ethiopia. Black Americans responded with material and financial assistance for this African nation.

1935. The National Council of Negro Women was founded in 1935 in recognition of the need for women to unite to deal with the problems confronting the Black community. The moving force and founder of this organization was Mary McLeod Bethune.

1936. The League of Struggle for Negro Rights merged with the National Negro Congress. It became an important base for the foundation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (C. I. O.).

1936. The formation of the C. I. O. carried on a prolonged struggle for industrial unionism and built organizations in the auto, steel and electrical industries. The door was opened to Black membership and in ten years the C. I. O. had a half million Black members. Today the C. I. O. is merged with the American Federation of Labor (A. F. L.) and much discrimination exists, especially in the crafts and in all positions of leadership.

1937. Dr. Carter Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History began publication of the *Negro History Bulletin.*

1937-1939 In the Spanish Civil War, about 100 Black Americans enlisted in the International Brigades that fought in Spain against the German and Italian aggressors. Oliver Law and Walter Garland were Black officers who commanded almost all-white American military units for the first time in history (Arthur H. Landis, *The Abraham Lincoln Brigade*, pp. 72-3 and 65).

1938. The conviction and death sentence of Joe Hale in McCracken County, Kentucky was struck down by the U. S. Supreme Court on the grounds that he had been denied equal protection. Hale pointed out that although one-sixth of the residents of the county were Black, there had not been a Black on jury duty for the period 1906-1936. This constitutes a violation of the 14th Amendment ("The Legal Status of Black Americans." *The Negro Almanac,* 1976).

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1939. Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi introduced a plan to colonize Black people back to Africa (Langston Hughes and Milton Meltzer, *A Pictorial History of the Negro in America,* p. 268).

1939. Jane J. Bolin was appointed Judge of the Domestic Relations Court, the first Black Woman judge in the United States. She was also the first Black woman to graduate from Yale Law School.

1940. Census placed Black life expectancy at 51 years, whites at 62.

1940-1941 At the 1910 AFL Convention, the delegates turned down a resolution by A. Philip Randolph and Milton P. Webster to end racial discrimination in the Federation. Randolph, at the 1941 convention, continued his struggle pointing out that when white locals wanted to include Black workers they were overruled by their International officers (Philip Foner. *Organized Labor and the Black Worker,* pp. 249-250).

1941. Although 1,000,000 Black soldiers were drafted during World War II to fight against German and Italian facism, the problem of obtaining democracy here in the United States was not faced. Integration in the armed forces and on the industrial front was very token. When A. Philip Randolph threatened to march 100,000 Black people on Washington, D. C., in protest, President Roosevelt issued his famous Executive Order 8802, prohibiting discrimination in defense industries. Nevertheless, Blacks were still the last hired and the first fired. Continued migrations of Black people from southern rural areas brought 30 percent of Black population to 12 large cities. Roosevelt had no Black people in his Cabinet, but there was a group of Black advisors who were known as his "Black Cabinet." Among the advisors was Mary McLeod Bethune, noted for the college she built at Daytona Beach, Florida.

1942. James Farmer formed the Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.).

1942. Willard S. Townsend of the United Transport Service Employees of America became the first Negro union leader on the national executive board of the CIO when his union was chartered in June, 1942. No Negro had ever served on the AFL executive board in sixty-one years of the federation's history (Philip Foner, *Organized Labor and the Black Worker*, p. 256).

1943. On June 20, a three day riot began against the Black people of Detroit in which 25 Black and 9 white people were killed.

1944. Benjamin J. Davis was elected to office of City Councilman in New York City, the first Black Communist to be elected to a legislative office in the U. S. (Davis, Benjamin J, *Communist Councilman From Harlem*).

The Post-World War II Period

1945. With the end of World War II, Vietnam proclaimed independence. The Japanese had controlled this former French colony during the war. When the Japanese were disarmed by the British and Americans, the control of Vietnam was promptly returned to the French. This was the start of American involvement in Indo-China. Black soldiers were used in large numbers in Indo-China, suffering an abnormally high death rate and segregation equal to any experienced in Mississippi. In time, many Black soldiers (white, too) found themselves in sympathy with the Vietnamese Liberation Movement.

1946. At the tenth anniversary meeting of the National Negro Congress, held in Detroit, Michigan, May 30 to June 2, the delegates voted to present a "Petition to the United Nations on Behalf of Thirteen Million Oppressed Negro Citizens of the United States of America," seeking the elimination of political, economic and social discrimination against Negroes in the United States of America.

1949. Striking Negro farmworkers charged their employer with "peonage." A warrant against the Mazo Farm Producers Co., of Mazomanie, Wisconsin, charged that they "did unlawfully influence, induce, and persuade workmen to accept employment in this state and did bring such workmen from the vicinity of Elizabeth, N. C. into Dane County . . . by means of false and deceptive representations . . ." Eventually a contract was signed, the first of its kind in Wisconsin history. (*Capital Times*, August 18, 19, 20, 22).

1949. Attempts were made to assassinate Paul Robeson as he sang at Peekskill, New York. Hundreds of Black and white people were cut, beaten and clubbed by members of the American Legion and state troopers (Howard Fast, *Peekskill U. S. A.)*.

1950. Black author, Gwendolyn Brooks, won the Pulitzer Prize in literature.

Gwendolyn Brooks.
Clarence Kailin.

1950-1960. Negro labor organizations, such as the American League of Colored Laborers in New York, were formed. These unions were formed as separate organizations of necessity (as were the Black churches, newspapers, etc.), but they had a friendly spirit of cooperation with white workers.

1950. On June 10, Paul Robeson, addressing the National Labor Conference for Negro rights, called attention to the fact that the Truman Administration was sending arms to the French Government to be used against Vietnamese patriots. Four years later, Robeson asked, "Shall Negro share-croppers from Mississippi be sent to shoot down brownskin peasants in Vietnam?" (*Freedomways,* 1971, Vol. 1, p. 122).

1950. Oslo, Norway. Ralph Bunche was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

1951. The historic petition, *We Charge Genocide,* edited by William L. Patterson, National Executive Secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, was presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations, protesting and documenting the crime of genocide against Black people of the United States. Chronologically arranged from January, 1945, to June, 1951, it documented hundreds of cases of murder, beating, burning, torture, rape, economic sanctions and "legal lynching," for example: the electrocution of the Martinsville Seven in Richmond, Virginia.

1953. Hulan Jack was sworn in as Borough President of Manhattan.

1954. The Supreme Court issued the historic decision on *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.* As a result of a suit carried by the NAACP, the United States Supreme Court reversed the 1896 *Plessy* Decision. It found that segregation is inherently unequal but set no time limit for the schools to desegregate. As a result the segregationists were able to organize massive resistance and the inevitable violence that goes with it. Officials closed many schools to avoid integrating.

1954. Having been converted to the Nation of Islam while in prison, Malcolm Little was sent to New York to head the Harlem Islamic movement. Under the new name of Malcolm X, he soon became a nationally prominent leader, but by 1964, internal differences within the Nation of Islam forced him out. After trips to Mecca, he established Muslim Mosque, Inc., and the Organization of Afro-American Unity. He wanted to internationalize the civil rights struggle by raising it to the level of a struggle for human rights (Malcolm X, *Autobiography of Malcolm X*). On February 21, 1965, El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz (Malcolm X) was assassinated.

1955. Ralph Bunche was appointed United Nations Undersecretary for Special Political Affairs.

1955. Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune died. She had founded the Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, 1904; founded the National Council of Negro Women in 1935; was appointed Director of Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration (Rackham Holt, *Mary McLeod Bethune*).

1956. Miss Autherine Lucy, a Black student, attempted to enter the University of Alabama. She faced organized violence and required a police escort. Because of the white rioting, she was suspended and then expelled.

The Protest Era

1956. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a complete boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus system. One year later, the company was bankrupt and was forced to desegregate. Reverend King headed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and led a massive protest movement across the South (Martin Luther King, *Stride Toward Freedom*).

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Clarence Kailin.

1956. When the Alabama State Courts outlawed the NAACP in 1956, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth organized the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. Next year he was a co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

1957. The African nation of Ghana achieved independence under Kwame Nkrumah, the first African nation to do so. It became a leading force for African unity against colonialism. Afro-Americans took an increasingly greater interest in Africa and in African freedom and independence.

1957. Nine Black children under the leadership of Daisy Bates attempted to integrate Central High School at Little Rock, Arkansas. They met with prolonged armed resistance organized by Governor Faubus. This was one more saga of Black perseverence and heroism (Daisy Bates, *The Long Shadow of Little Rock* p. 61).

The Struggle of The 1960's

The 1960's were a decade of expanding protest with "freedom rides," marches, demonstrations, voter registration campaigns, school boycotts and other tactics designed for each situation. It was also a decade of violence against those who fought for their freedom.

Notable among the freedom fighters was Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Townsend on October 6, 1917, Fannie Lou was the last of 20 children. As was the custom during that period of share-cropping, Black parents were paid $50 for each child born to them—these were considered as no more than future field-hands. Fannie Lou, herself, began picking cotton at the age of 6.

On August 31, 1962, with the aid of Rev. James Bevel of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), she went to Indianola, the County Seat, and attempted to register to vote. All Blacks (but not whites) were forced to take an "interpretation" test of the Mississippi Constitution which, predictibly, she failed. This was her first political activity in 45 years.

When she refused to withdraw her name for voter registration, she was forcefully driven from her job on the plantation and from her home in which she had lived for 18 years. Her husband, however, was not allowed to leave. She miraculously escaped death when the house in which she had taken refuge was riddled by 16 rifle bullets. It was then that she felt: "They can't kill me but once" and from that moment became a leading force in the civil rights movement.

She then moved to Ruleville, and in June, 1963, when returning from a voter registration conference in South Carolina, was arrested by highway patrolmen in Winona, Mississippi, taken to jail and beaten brutally until unconscious, suffering permanent injuries. A pregnant woman with her suffered a miscarriage as a result of a beating she had gotten.

1964, the year of the Mississippi Summer Project (voter registration), was another year of violence. From June to October, in the town of McComb (Justice Department figures), 17 churches, homes and businesses were bombed. Four churches were also burned and 32 people arrested and four beaten.

Because Black people were not allowed to participate in the Regular Mississippi Democratic Party, she helped to found and became the Vice-Chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) on April 26, 1964.

In 1964, at the National Democratic Connvention in Atlantic City, N. J., the MFDP was offered the compromise of at-large seats. Mrs. Hamer refused this unacceptable offer.

That same year she attempted to run for Congress in the Second Mississippi Congressional District, but was not allowed on the ballot. The MFDP then conducted their own "Freedom Ballot" in which Mrs. Hamer received 33,099 votes. Her white opponent, Congressman Jamie Whitten, got 49 votes.

On January 4, 1965, Mrs. Hamer, along with Mrs. Victoria Gray and Mrs. Annie Devine, made an appeal to Congress in which they challenged the seats of the Mississippi delegation to the House of Representatives—all white. Their challenge was defeated 288-143, but at the next Democratic Party Convention in 1968, Mrs. Hamer and others were allowed to be officially seated.

In the Spring of 1965 she walked with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the famous march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Until her death from cancer on March 14, 1977, Mrs. Hamer remained a central figure in the civil rights movement. She received many awards. Among them: Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Tougaloo College; Honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from Shaw University; honorary degrees from Columbia College and Howard University; National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award; the Mary Church Terrell Award from Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.; and the Paul Robeson Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

Major financial assistance for the work of Dr. Hamer came from the Walk For Development, interested friends in Boston and the Madison, Wisconsin, organization, Measure for Measure (Information on Dr. Hamer was supplied by Martha B. Smith, one of the founders of Measure for Measure and its president).

Whites killed two Blacks as James Meredith attempted to enter the University of Mississippi; the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, was bombed, killing four children; William L. Moore, white postman of Baltimore, was shot to death in his one-man-march (1963); Medgar Evers, NAACP leader of Jackson, Mississippi, was assassinated (1963); in Mississippi, Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman were killed by the Klan police (1964); the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project, organized by SNCC, CORE, SCLC and NAACP, suffered 1,000 arrests, 35 shootings, 30 bombings and 35 church burnings—100 people were beaten and six were murdered.

1960. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was organized. "Tent cities" appeared as Blacks were evicted by white landlords for attempting to register to vote in Fayette County, Tennessee.

1960. The "sit-in" movement was launched by students attempting to integrate a Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.

1962. The median income for white families was $5,570 and $2,908 for nonwhite (V. W. Henderson, *Labor Fact Book,* 1965, p. 71).

1963. Governor Wallace of Alabama declared: 'I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny and I say 'segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever" (*The Negro Almanac,* 1976, p. 34).

1963. Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois died in Ghana, Africa, August 22.

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1963. On August 23, a quarter of a million people marched peacefully on Washington, D. C., to dramatize the Black demand for equality.

1964. The National Labor Relations Board ruled that the elimination of racial abuses in hiring practices constituted as valid a subject for collective bargaining as did higher pay and job security. The Board held that both unions and employers had an affirmative obligation to oppose discrimination in hiring (Herbert Hill, *Black Labor and the American Legal System,* pp. 133-4).

1964. Uprisings in the cities were begun by Black people no longer able to tolerate segregation, poverty and police brutality: Harlem (July); Brooklyn (July); Rochester (July); Jersey City (August); Patterson, New Jersey (August); Dismore, Illinois and Philadelphia. In 1965, there were uprisings in Watts, California, Chicago and North Philadelphia. Rebellion continued in 1966 and 1967.

1965. The August issue of *Ebony* magazine defined racism as "The White Problem in America."

1965. James M. Nabrit, Jr. was appointed ambassador to the United Nations on August 25.

1966. Edward Brooke, a Black Republican, was elected Senator from Massachusetts. He was one of the few Republicans to come out against continued United States involvement in Vietnam.

1966. On January 25, Constance Baker Motley was appointed to the U. S. District Court for Southern New York; the nation's first Negro to become a federal judge. In 1954 she became the first Negro Woman to be elected to the New York State Senate, and in 1965, was elected to the position of Manhattan Borough President. (*The Negro Almanac,* pp. 47 & 764-5).

1966. Huey P. Newton and Bobby G. Seale organized the Black Panther Party for self-defense. They immediately worked on community problems, opposing the Cultural Nationalists who make no distinction between racist and non-racist whites, and who believe that a Black man cannot be an enemy of Black people (Philip S. Foner, ed., *The Black Panthers Speak,* and Gene Marine, *The Black Panthers*).

1967. On April 4, Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke out on the Vietnam War, calling for a five-point program of: (1) ending the bombing; (2) declaring a cease-fire; (3) stopping the spread to other Indo-Chinese countries; (4) recognizing the National Liberation Front; and (5) setting a date for withdrawal (Martin Luther King, Jr., "A Time to Break Silence," reprinted in *Freedomways* magazine, 2nd quarter, 1967).

1967. Poet Langston Hughes, one of America's most prolific Black writers, died on May 22, 1967.

1967. On June 13, Thurgood Marshall was appointed Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

1967. Richard Hatcher was elected Mayor of Gary, Indiana, and Carl Stokes was elected Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, on November 7.

1967. On September 6, President Johnson disclosed he would nominate Walter P. Washington to head the newly reorganized municipal government of Washington, D. C.

1967. On April 28, Mohammed Ali refused induction and was subsequently stripped of his boxing title and not permitted to box in the United States. Ali, a Muslim minister, stated, "No, I am not going 10,000 miles to help murder and kill and burn other people simply to help continue the domination of white slavemasters over the dark people the world over. This is the day and age when such evil injustice must come to an end" (*Freedomways*, 1967, Vol. 2, Front Cover).

1968. On February 9, unarmed students attempted to desegregate a bowling alley in Orangeburg, South Carolina. According to an eyewitness reporter, the students were chased by the police who "fired a volley of shots from a knoll in front of the campus . . . troopers dragged two of the wounded about 20 yards across the grass campus and then down an embankment and out onto the sidewalk." Three students were killed and 26 were wounded (Michael Davis, *Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper*, February 17, 1968).

1968. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated on April 4. Outbursts in 125 cities followed the news of Reverend King's death. Scores of people were killed and thousands were wounded.

1968. The Poor People's March to Washington, D. C., led by Reverend Ralph Abernathy, began in Memphis, Tennessee.

1970's Attention was starting to focus on prison conditions. Black legislators found that racism was rampant in what were considered "reformed" California judicial and prison systems. Angela Davis became involved in exposing the racist nature of "indeterminate sentence," whereby a person may receive a one-year-to-life sentence for the smallest offense, as did ' Soledad Brother" George Jackson (Angela Davis, *If They Come in the Morning*). George Jackson was accused in 1960 of robbing a filling station of seventy dollars. Said Jackson, "I accepted a deal—I agreed to confess and spare the county court costs in return for a light county jail sentence. I confessed, but when time came for sentencing, they tossed me into the penitentiary with one [year] to life" (*Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson,* p. 21).

1970. On May 15, "a fusillade of police gunfire killed two Negro men and wounded 16 others, including six girls in front of a women's dormitory at predominantly black Jackson State College . . ." ("Police Guns Kill Two Black Students," *Madison Capital Times,* May 15, 1970).

1970. On May 17, in Augusta, Georgia, police killed six Black men during a disturbance. According to the coroner's report all were shot in the back, one man nine times, one eight, one seven, one twice and two once (Bruce Galphin, "Blacks Slain in Augusta, Shot in Back," *Madison Capital Times,* May 20, 1970).

1970. On October 1, a three-judge federal court convening in Buffalo declared void New York State's anti-busing law which made it illegal for appointed school boards to reshuffle pupil assignment plans for the purpose of achieving racial balance. The law had been copied by several southern school districts to forestall desegregation. Earlier, Governor Ronald Reagan had signed into California law a bill prohibiting the busing of students "for any . . . reason without the written permission of the parent or guardian" (*The Negro Almanac,* 1976, p. 65).

1970. On July 1, Kenneth Gibson became mayor of Newark, New Jersey.

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Kenneth Gibson

Clarence Kailin

1970. "Reverse Racism' is now seen as a method to continue racist practices . . . a pretext to continue the protection of white privileges (Celia Zitran, "Reverse Racism: The Great White Hoax," *Freedomways.* (Vol. 15, #3. 1975, pp. 188-195).

1971. On April 30, the Joint Center for Political Studies in Washington, D. C. reported that 1,960 Blacks held elective office in the United States; however, only three of every 1,000 officeholders in the U. S. A. were Black, while Blacks represented 12 percent of the population.

1971. The opening of the 92nd Congress found 12 Black Representatives, but still less than one-third of the minimal 43 needed to equal the Black proportion of the population.

1971. The February 6 issue of the Baltimore *Afro-American* newspaper contained a review of "All in the Family" by Whitney M. Young, Jr. Mr. Young said the show should be taken off the air because it only succeeds in spreading the poison of bigotry making it, by repetition, more respectable. He criticized the "clever liberal writers for their anti-working attitudes," and stated, "Studies show . . . many of the upperclass men who control the racist institutions in our society are more deserving of exposure than workers, some of whom are used by racists to keep them from natural alliances with Black workers."

1971. Whitney M. Young, Jr., Executive Director of the National Urban League, died in Lagos, Nigeria, on March 12.

Lerone Bennett, Jr.

Clarence Kailin.

Arna Bontempa.

Clarence Kailin.

John Hope Franklin.

Clarence Kailin.

1971. On August 21, George Jackson was killed in the San Quentin prison yard. Prison officials claimed Jackson was shot in an escape attempt. The August 28 *New York Times* stated, "A better reason for challenging official explanations in the San Quentin case is to get at the truth of George Jackson's life, not just the truth of his death. Whether or not he was shot while escaping or was in some way "set up" for killing, his life was a real tragedy. It is indisputably an American tragedy."

1971. On September 23, inhuman prison conditions, long suppressed from public notice, led to an uprising by Attica State Prison inmates. The uprising was suppressed when Governor Rockefeller sent in one thousand state troopers. Forty-two inmates and guards were killed, apparently by police fire ("Hostages Killed By Bullets, Not Knives. No Guns Held By Inmates," *Madison Capital Times* September 24, 1971).

1972. Busing developed into a nationwide political issue. Vernon E. Jordan, successor to Whitney Young as Director of the National Urban League, pointed out that "only three percent of the children are bused to achieve integrated schools; that no attempt is made to achieve 'racial balance,' busing just one Black child to a white school achieves what they call a 'desegregated' school; that Black children spend more time on buses than white; that, in general, children now spend less time on buses than they did when they were bused to segregated schools" (Jordan, *Afro-American,* Newspaper of Baltimore, April 15, 1972).

1972. The National Black Convention in Gary, Indiana, March 10-12, drew up a Black agenda to present to the political parties in the 1972 elections.

1972. Kwame Nkrumah, leading advocate of African unity and socialism, died on April 27. Ghana was the first African state to achieve independence on March 6, 1957; Nkrumah was its Prime Minister.

1972. On May 22, the Supreme Court ruled that a unanimous jury verdict is unnecessary for conviction in non-federal cases. This decision was seen as especially affecting minority defendants whose peers are seldom found on juries. The importance of unanimity is that when all members of a jury cannot agree as to guilt, then some reasonable doubt must exist.

The *New York Times* stated on May 28, 1972, that less-than-unanimous jury verdicts could allow "prosecutors to win more convictions, especially in conspiracy prosecutions with political overtones where juries are often divided."

1972. Angela Davis, Soledad Defense Committee member, found herself accused of murder, conspiracy and kidnapping. Her case attracted worldwide attention. She spent more than one and one-half years in prison before receiving the right to bail, and she suffered great physical deterioration. The state of California spent nearly one million dollars on the trial, but Miss Davis was vindicated of all charges on June 5. She called this a victory for the people and asked her supporters to turn their attention to prison reforms, such as a minimum wage level, improved medical care, free access to literature and elimination of indeterminate sentences.

Angela Davis,
Clarence Kailin

1973. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company settled a suit by the Federal Equal Opportunities Commission when it promised to to pay $15 million in back wages to minorities and women (*The Negro Almanac,* 1976, p. 65)."

1973. Income gap widened. The median income for a Black family in 1973 was $7,270 compared with $12,600 for a white family. This report came from the United States Bureau of the Census (*Wisconsin State Journal,* July 25, 1974).

1973. Minority students on all University of Wisconsin campuses totaled only 4,160 or 3.5 percent (*Wisconsin State Journal,* February 4, 1973).

1973. Dorsie W. Willis, Black soldier dishonorably discharged from the army 66 years ago by President Theodore Roosevelt, finally won a long fight to clear his name. He was the only soldier, still living, of 166 who had been discharged without a trial (*Wisconsin State Journal,* February 12, 1973).

1973. Thomas Bradley was elected Mayor of Los Angeles, bringing the total Black elected officials in the United States to 2,991, including 108 mayors.

1974. Joseph Thompson became Wisconsin's first Black postmaster. He had formerly been an officer of the Postal Clerks Union and had twice been elected to the Madison City Council. In February, 1974 he was sworn in as postmaster of Waupun, Wisconsin (*Madison Capital Times,* February 28, 1974).

1974. Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington, musical giant, composer of more than 1,000 compositions, died on May 24. He was 75. His many works included orchestral pieces, operas, television and ballet scores, tone poems, sacred works, and much more (*Madison Capital Times,* May 25, 1974).

1974. Black Capitalism. Although the number of Black Businesses has been increasing, the records for 1972 indicate (Census Bureau, Department of Commerce) that Blacks had only three-tenths of one per-cent of gross sales in the U. S. (*State Journal,* December 11, 1974).

1974. In spite of a surface quietness, much racism continued to exist in Wisconsin. A group of Black students attending the University of Wisconsin at Richland Center were unable to get housing accommodations and were forced to sleep in the campus gymnasium (From an editorial in the *Madison Capital Times,* September 10, 1974).

1974. The sixth Pan-African Congress was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in June.

1975. "Well over half of the total number of Black youth in the United States—1,650,000 youth, 16 to 19 years of age—cannot find jobs. Most of them do not even get counted in the Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly unemployment survey, which fails to include discouraged and part-time workers. More importantly, teenagers who never had jobs are not accounted for. By and large, unemployed Black youth are demoralized and degraded, and they know it. They know there is little they can do about it, and many know why. Living in the wealthiest, most technologically advanced society in history, condemned to urban ghettos, they already realize that their immediate challenge is to escape a fate devoid of opportunity, purpose and productivity" (Rep. John Conyers, Jr, Michigan—*Freedomways* Magazine, Third Quarter, 1975, p. 153).

1975. Black youth suffer from an educational system that gives Black communities the least qualified teachers and the worst equipped schools and then blames Black youngsters if their attainments lag behind pupils in the affluent suburbs . . . 30 school buildings in use in the riot areas (Detroit, Michigan) had been dedicated during the presidential administration of Ulysses S. Grant (William Lucy, International Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees—*Freedomways* Magazine, Third Quarter, 1975, p. 162).

1975. Using a 'hidden unemployment index' that it believed was more accurate than federal formulas, the National Urban League calculated Black unemployment at 25.8 percent for the first three months of 1975 (*Madison Capital Times,* June 10, 1975).

1975. On April 19, Dr. Percy I. Julian, distinguished scientist of Oak Park, Illinois, died. He held more than 130 chemical patents and was the first to synthesize cortisone drugs. In addition to having received honorary degrees from 12 colleges or universities, he was well known for his work in civil rights.

1975. Several cross burnings in Madison indicated that racism was far from dead. The victims charged that the school system was partly responsible because the curriculum was not yet free of racism (*Madison Capital Times,* April 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 29 and May 5 and 6).

1975. The House of Representatives completed legislative action on a measure that restored citizenship to Robert E. Lee, the Confederate General. "Marse Robert not only took up arms against his country, he led an army against it" (*Capital Times,* July 23, 1975).

1975. Housing test ban overturned. U. S. Judge James E. Doyle ruled, on July 11, that a section of the Wisconsin open housing law which prohibits anyone from 'testing' or 'checking' if discrimination had been practiced in renting or selling property is unconstitutional (*Madison Capital Times,* June, 11, 1975).

1975. Elijah Mohammad, leader of the Black Muslims died January 25, at age 77.

1975. "Blacks are refused home loans more than twice as often as whites and their applications are rejected at a higher rate than those of any other racial or ethnic group, according to a new federal study" made by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (*Madison Capital Times,* August 20, 1975)."

1975-1976 "The attempts to equalize job and financial inequities have been met with nothing but frustration. Seniority programs continue the 'last hired, first fired' tradition that Black workers have been facing for so long . . . Similarly, Affirmative Action programs designed to end 'white only' hiring policies (to say nothing regarding the problems of women in the work force) are now being curtailed under the guise of 'reverse discrimination' (William Raspberry, *Madison Capital Times,* February 21, 1975)."

1976. Debunking myths about affirmative action programs, Bettye Latimer, Madison's Affirmative Action Officer stated that "Affirmative action 'opens up the whole selection process' so minorities and women have equal opportunities. [It] does not displace whites from their jobs nor tell employers whom to hire. [It] does not deal in quotas . . . it deals with goals. [Another myth] is based on the assumption that all white men working now are qualified, that none are mediocre." "Affirmative action doesn't have to be a guilt trip (*Madison Capital Times,* May 7, 1976)."

1976. On May 11, Secretary of the Interior, Kleppe, formally designated the old W. E. B. Du Bois homestead in Great Barrington, Mass., as a National Historical Landmark.

1976. Paul Robeson died, January 23. Born on April 9, 1898, he was termed by many as 'A giant among giants,' 'unbending champion of human dignity,' 'a fighter for the working class, and an artist superb.' (*Daily World,* Jan. 24, 1976; *Afro-American,* Jan. 31, 1976; *Capital Times,* Feb. 5, 1976).

1976. The African-American Manifesto on Southern Africa was adopted at a conference of organizational leaders convened by the Congressional Black Caucus, September 24-25, in Washington, D. C. Among those attending were N.A.A.C.P., P.U.S.H., A.F.R.I.C.A.R.E., Black Economic Research Council, National Council of Negro Women, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus. This meeting expressed solidarity with the Africans protesting racism and oppression in Soweto, Port Elizabeth, Capetown, Johannesburg, and elsewhere in South Africa.

1976. Prof. David B. Abernathy, Chairman of Stanford University Committee on African Studies, stated that Black Africa is judged by a double standard. He stated that it is difficult to mobilize support for majority rule in South Africa, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and South-West Africa (Namabia), when we define their alleged pattern of failure as anarchy, civil war, brutal dictatorship or economic stagnation. "The belief that Africans cannot rule themselves is clearly racist. When disruptive events occur in Latin America or Asia—not to mention Europe itself they seldom trigger such a reaction. Few would seriously assert that civil strife in northern Ireland, a military coup in Portugal, the torture of political prisoners in Greece or our own Watergate and Congressional sex scandals prove that whites are incapable of self-government" (*Madison Capital Times,* August 28, 1976).

1976. William Cofield was hired as head coach of Wisconsin basketball team in March. He was the first Black head coach in Big Ten.

1976. Lester B. Granger, retired executive director of the National Urban League died, January 9, in Alexandria, La., at age 79. He was the League's director from 1941-61.

1977. A study conducted jointly by the Gannet Urban Journalism Center, Medill School of Journalism and Northwestern University, showed that only 4% of the employees of major newspapers are minorities. Only 11 minority people were in policy-making positions in the nation's daily (white) papers. Only 5 members of minority groups held the title of editor in daily papers. These papers had a combined daily circulation of 42,000 out of the nation's total daily circulation of 60 million (*Daily World,* April 5, 1979, p. 25).

1977. The television series "Roots" was seen by an estimated 80 million. Along with the good aspects of the film, many stereotypes remained. Sections of the film spoke with a "white" accent and obscured important segments of the Black struggle (*Interracial Books for Children,* Volume 8, Number 1, 1977, pp. 14-16).

For a more complete picture of how the media portrays the Black image, see *Freedomways,* Volume 14, Number 13, 1974.

1977. Both factions in the United Steel Workers of America election campaign had Black men running for vice-president. For the first time in the history of that International Union, there was a Black vice-president.

1977. The "Dawson 5" case (Dawson, Ga.) was dismissed. Former policeman, William M. Rucker, testified that the accused were intimidated by law officers. Defense lawyer, Millard Farmer, called the southern part of Georgia "the death belt . . . Georgia has lynched and executed more people than any state in the Union, and now it's coming 'back into style.' We want to show the implications of a racist society." The "5" claimed police threatened them with castration and electrocution to coerce a confession (*Afro-American,* December 31, 1977, p. 1).

1978. Black, Hispanic and Native Americans are drastically under-represented in professions dealing with the environment and natural resources. Only 2.6% of the U. S. Forest Services national resource professionals are from racial minorities. In the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 6.6% of professional-level employees are minorities. (Report of Urban Environment Foundation).

1978. When the 96th Congress convened in January, 1979, the United States Senate was all-white.

1978. William Grant Still, dean of Black classical composers died on December 3, 1978. A trail-blazer in his field, his symphony, "Afro-American Symphony," composed in 1931, is regarded as the first work of its kind by an American Black composer. He was the first Black musician to conduct a major American orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, in the Hollywood Bowl in 1936. Among many other awards, he won two Guggenheim Fellowships (*Afro-American,* December 16, p. 1).

1978. Calling the Sambo resturant chain name "a constant reminder of slavery," the head of the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights said he will seek state legislation to ban it (*Afro-American, September 23, p. 3).*

1978. About 3,000 people, Black and white, marched in Tupelo, Mississippi, November 27, demanding an end to race discrimination, police brutality, and terrorism by the Ku Klux Klan. The march was called by the United League of Mississippi and took place in the face of a counter-demonstration by 40 robed Klansmen brandishing shotguns, clubs, machine guns (*Daily World,* Nov. 28, p. 1).

1978. After six years of international protests against the incarceration of the "Wilmington 10," the Justice Department filed a "friend of the court" brief in Raleigh, N. C., urging U. S. District Court Judge Franklin Dupree to free the defendants. The government writ noted that the key prosecution witness, Allen Hall, changed his sworn testimony against the defendants sometime before the trial, but the prosecutor, Jay Stroud, failed to provide the defense with his "amended" statement. North Carolina Governor Hunt refused to grant clemency to the "10" in spite of protests across the country (*Daily World,* November 10 and 15): (Also see: *Afro-American,* April 8, 15 and 22, 1978).

1978. New Klan Emerges. An hour-long television documentary on November 15 exposed a new Klan movement. In Detroit the Klan had recorded telephone messages stating: "If the candidate for the U. S. Congress from the National Christian Democratic Union were elected, we would immediately present legislation which would make it illegal for Negroes to live or shop in Dearborn or Dearborn Heights, and provide for a dawn to dusk curfew for their criminal element."

In Southern California the Klan has their own police force and short-wave radio communication network (The Detroit *Michigan Chronicle,* December 16, 1978).

1978. "Two of the Georgia counties President Carter represented as a State Senator are among Dixie areas where Black voting power is diluted by at-large elections, according to 26 Federal Court suits. They include Carter's home county, and Terrell, county seat of Dawson, scene of the celebrated "Dawson 5" case (Afro-American, Jan. 7, 1978, p. 1).

1978. Singer Eartha Kitt finally returned to the White House after a ten-year exile. She had "bawled out" President Lyndon Johnson saying to him: "You send the best of this country off to be shot and maimed . . They don't want to go to school because they're going to be snatched off from their mothers to be shot in Vietnam."

Although she remained an international star, she could find almost no work in this country. (*Afro-American,* February 4, 1978, p. 1).

1978. 700,000 people living in Washington, D. C., whose population is three quarters Black, have no voting representation in either the Senate or the House of Representatives (Afro-American, March 25, p. 1).

1978. There are 15 Blacks in the House of Representatives, or 3.5%.

1978. New Orleans got its first Black Mayor, Ernest N. Morial, on Monday May 1, 1978 (Afro-American, May 6, 1978, p. 1).

1978. New Orleans Criminal Court Magistrate Robert F. Collins is the first Black U. S. District Court Judge in Louisiana and in the South, May, 1978, (Afro-American, May 27, p. 1).

1978. When Ms. Eleanor Richardson, a registered nurse, moved into a white section of Philadelphia, a cross was burned in her driveway and two bricks were thrown through her windows (Afro-American, June 3, p. 3).

1978. Dr. Dorothy I. Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women, was chosen to receive the Distinguished Service Award of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (Afro-American, June 10, p. 8).

1978. Georgia State Senator Julian Bond, head of the Atlanta NAACP Chapter, filed suit against the Federal Communications Commission seeking to have N----R added to the FCC ban on obscene words taboo on television . . . "I don't think it ought to be permissible to use the six-letter word that dehumanizes and badly characterizes an entire race of people" (*Afro-American* 8/19, p. 6).

1978. The FBI widely blamed for "benign neglect" in its handling of the anti-civil rights violence in the 1960's, was accused of provoking the KKK's brutal beating of Freedom Riders.

The American Civil Liberties Union released 3,000 pages of documents that showed the FBI in 1961 gave a detailed itinerary for two busloads of Freedom Riders to a Birmingham, Alabama police sergeant who was a known Klan member.

The buses were met by gangs of Klansmen who beat the riders with pipes, chains and baseball bats (*Afro-American,* September 2, 1978, p. 1).

July-1978 Justice Thurgood Marshall's Bakke Dissent:

"In the light of the sorry history of discrimination, and its devastating impact on the lives of Negroes, bringing the Negro into the mainstream of American life should be a state interest of the highest order. To fail to do so is to ensure that America will forever remain a divided society.

I do not believe that the Fourteenth Amendment requires us to accept that fate. Neither its history nor our past cases lend any support to the conclusion that a University may not remedy the cumulative effects of a society's discrimination by giving consideration to race in an effort to increase the number and percentage of Negro doctors.

It is plain that the Fourteenth Amendment was not intended to prohibit measures designed to remedy the effects of the nation's past treatment of Negroes. The Congress that passed the Fourteenth Amendment is the same Congress that passed the 1866 Freedman's Bureau Act, an act that provided many of its benefits only to Negroes.

As has been demonstrated in our joint opinion, this Court's past cases establish the constitutionality of race-conscious remedial measures . . .

While I applaud the judgement of the Court that a University may consider race in its admissions process, it is more than a little ironic that, after several hundred years of class-based discrimination against Negroes, the Court is unwilling to hold that a class-based remedy for that discrimination is permissible.

In declining to so hold, today's judgement ignores the fact that for several hundred years Negroes have been discriminated against, not as individuals, but rather solely because of the color of their skins.

It is unnecessary in 20th Century America to have individual Negroes demonstrate that they have been victims of racial discrimination; the racism of our society has been so pervasive that none, regardless of wealth or position, has managed to escape its impact.

The experience of Negroes in America has been different in kind, not just in degree, from that of other ethnic groups. It is not merely the history of slavery alone but also that a whole people were marked as inferior by law. And that mark has endured . . .

If we are ever to become a fully integrated society, one in which the color of a person's skin will not determine the opportunities available to him or her, we must be willing to take steps to open those doors.

I do not believe that anyone can truly look into America's past and still find that a remedy for the effects of the past is impermissible . . .

1979. The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights has denounced continued dominance of the television industry by white males. The Commission issued a 97-page report that urged the Federal Communications Commission to examine network programming decisions that led to stereotyped portrayals of women and minorities and the impact of these portrayals on viewers (*Afro-American,* January 27, P. 2).

1979. A Federal District Judge in Atlanta rejected a request from the NAACP and State Senator Julian Bond, to ban the use of the word n----r from television. The judge claimed a legal technicality.

Earlier the Federal Communications Commission rejected a similar request on the grounds that the epithet did not qualify as obscene, indecent or profane (*Afro-American,* February 17, 1979, p. 1).

1979. An admitted FBI paid informer, suspected of murdering a white civil rights worker and being a participant in the 1963 bombing of a Birmingham, Alabama, church in which four Black children died, testified that he was promised immunity from prosecution by the FBI and other Department of Justice Officials.

Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr. offered that testimony during an extradition hearing, in which an Alabama prosecutor asked Georgia officials to return Rowe to Alabama to stand trial on first degree murder charges.

Lowndes County (Alabama) prosecutor, John Tabor, said he had new evidence and three witnesses who could identify Rowe as the trigger man in the assassination of Viola Gregg Liuzzo, who was murdered during the 1965 March on Selma, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The prosecutor said he had evidence that Rowe murdered Mrs. Liuzzo while he was on the FBI's payroll as that agency's chief spy inside the Ku Klux Klan.

Rowe denied the murder charge and swore that both Alabama law enforcement officials and the Justice Department had promised him permanent immunity from prosecution in the death of Mrs. Liuzzo (*Afro-American,* January 6, 1979, P. 1).

1979. Vernon E. Jordan, President of the National Urban League, stated, January 17, "It is our grim duty to inform you that the state of Black America today verges on the brink of disaster."

"1979 promises to be a year of crisis for America's Black people." He said that Black Americans can't stand a recession which is being widely predicted by the nation's economists. "When this economy sneezes, we get pneumonia" (*Afro-American* 1/27/79, p. 1).

1979. Aaron Douglas died on Feb. 2. He founded and, for 29 years, was Chair of the art department at Fisk. He was a leading painter during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's and has been called "The Father of Black American art."

1979. The racist plaque "NIG," erected by tour guides at Hoover Dam (Nevada) and dedicated to a dog who was a mascot to the men who built the dam, was finally removed (March 21) as a result of much public protest from Wisconsin and elsewhere (Las Vegas *Review Journal* 3/27, 2/30, 4/5; *Afro-American,* 1/16, 4/28; *Daily World,* 3/30; *Wisconsin State Journal,* 5/6; *Capital Times,* 5/8).

1979. The median income of Black families was 57% that of white families. This represented a decline from 62% in 1976. Income for Black families was $9,563, and for white families $16,740. Jobless rate for Black teen-agers was 40% (*Wall Street Journal,* March 6, 1979, p. 40).

1979. Descendants of America's Black slaves are owed $2.16 trillion ($86,000 for each Black person in the U. S.) as reported to the annual meeting of the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists in Washington by L. Alex Swan, Chair., Texas Southern University Sociology Department (*Afro-American,* March 31, p. 1).

1979. Police surveillance and dossier-keeping have been used to inhibit dissent and have had especially serious impact on the poor, on Black and Hispanic people and other ethnic minorities. The effect of such surveillance has often been to thwart lawful attempts to seek redress of grievances or to effect social change—statement of American Friends Service Committee (*Afro-American,* April 28).

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